COMI 少年館

[作者簡介]

⊙生日：1951年2月⊙出生地：群馬縣伊勢崎市⊙排行：老么⊙中學時代以模擬畫出現在各漫畫雜誌中⊙處女作：「消失的爆炸聲」於1970年發表於少年SUNDAY DX.⊙成名作：「最後的冠軍」，1981年以「鄰家女孩」轟動漫壇。

日本小學館
獨家授權
COMI 少年館

安達充
MITSURU ADACHI

虹色辣椒

5

黑暗的水怪大陸

少年館

虹色辣椒

〈5〉

安達充

大然出版
NT-75

虹色青春

5

安達充

MITSURU ADACHI

SORRY WE'VE BEEN MIA GUYS, EVERYONE AT ADACHIUNIVERSE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY WITH THEIR PERSONAL LIFE, AND UNDERSTANDABLY, WE HAD TO PUT NIJI IRO ON HOLD UNTIL EVERYTHING WAS BACK TO BEING PEACHY. TOMATOACT HAS GONE MISSING FOR THE LAST MONTH, SO TOMATO IF YOUR OUT THERE, PLEASE COME BACK! BUT ON A GOOD NOTE, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE FOXKB TO THE ADACHI FAMILY! THIS GUY IS A GREAT EDITOR, HE DID THIS VOLUME TO MY EXACT SPECIFICATIONS, WITH ONLY FEW ERRORS! NOW LETS SHOW YOU THE STAFF FOR THIS VOLUME!

TRANSLATION: WEI-HWA HUANG / HAPPYBOBO
EDITOR: FOXKB
QC / PROOFREADER: KOKACOLA

NOW ON TO THE SHOW!

★前情提要★

虹色辣椒 ❺ 目 次

緣份眞是奇特又奇妙……5
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■ 安達充 ■

KARMA IS A SPECIAL & AND MIRACULOUS THING

AN OLD ADAGE GOES: "WHEN AT HOME, YOU CAN RELY ON YOUR PARENTS; BUT OUTSIDE, YOU MUST RELY ON YOUR FRIENDS."

"GOOD SAKE IS BETTER THAN A HUNDRED MEDICINES."

酒

KARMA IS A SPECIAL
AND MIRACULOUS THING

OH! GOOD IDEA!

ANIKI! ANIKI!

BUT NOW, WITH NO PARENTS TO RELY ON...

.....

NATANE!

... AND NO SYMPATHY FROM FRIENDS ...

YOU TWO HAVE BEEN SPENDING TOO MUCH ALREADY!

NO! THE REST OF THE MONEY IS FOR LODGING AND FOOD.

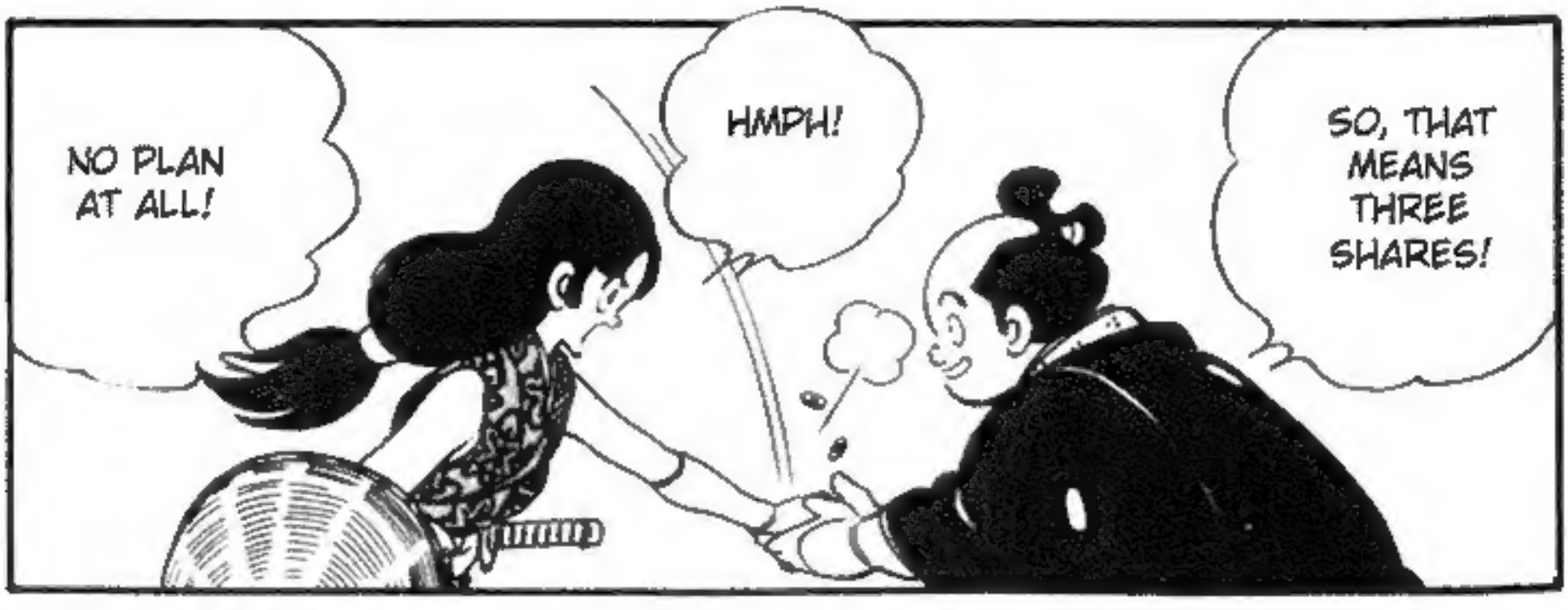
WHERE WILL YOU SLEEP?

YEAH!
SO, JUST GIVE US OUR SHARE OF LODGING AND FOOD EXPENSES!

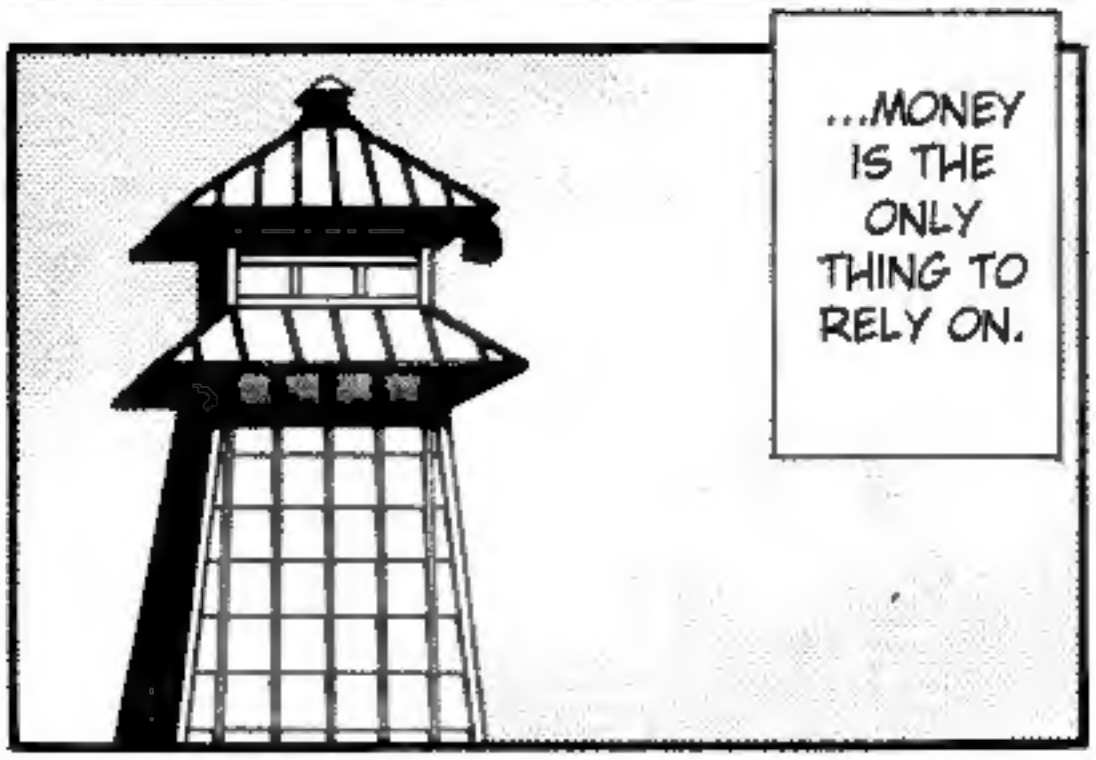
SANSHOU! WANTS TO COME WITH US TOO.
WHAT?

A BIG TOWN LIKE THIS? NO PROBLEM!
HEH . . .

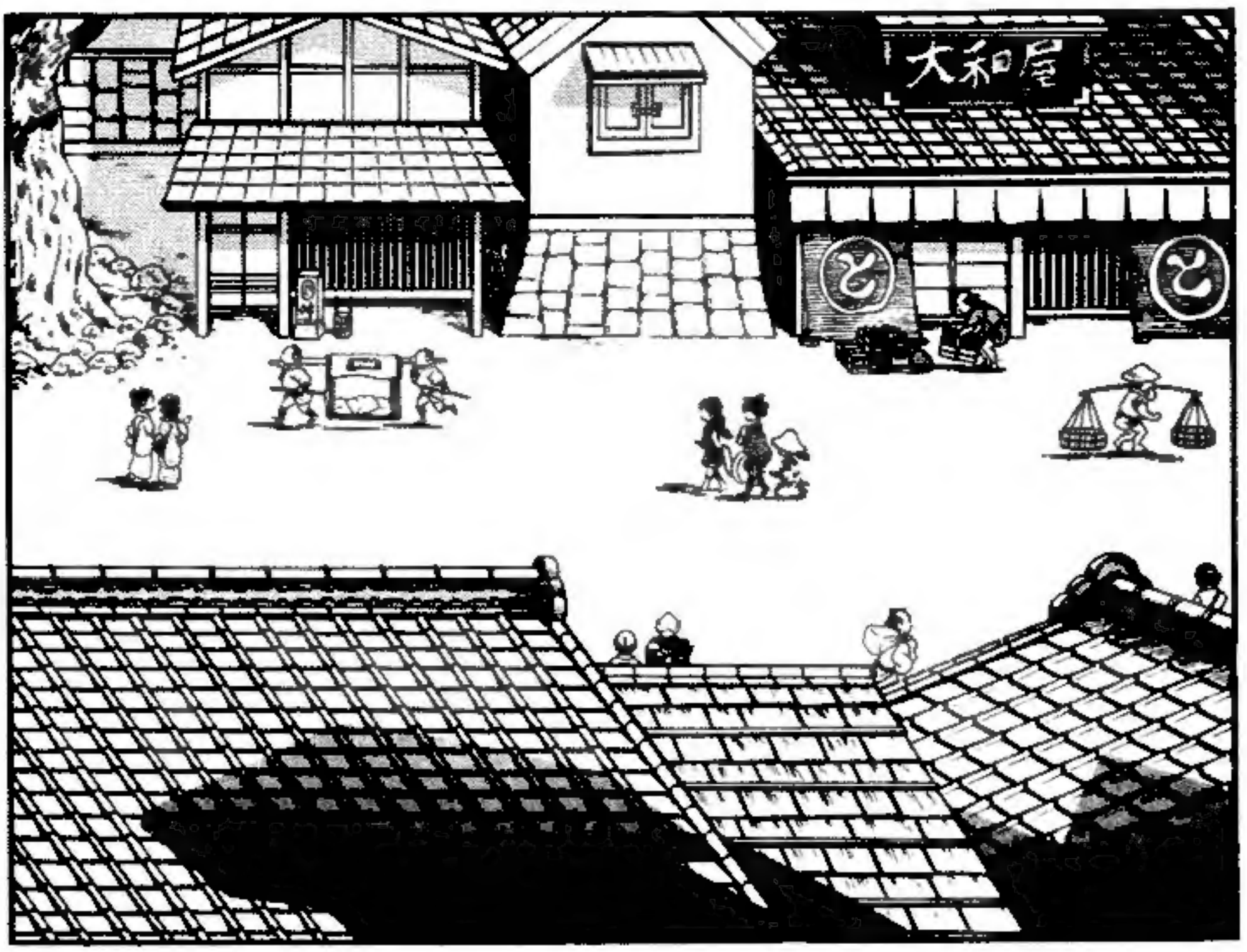
ME TOO!


NO PLAN AT ALL!
HMPH!
SO, THAT MEANS THREE SHARES!

"WELCOME!"


...MONEY IS THE ONLY THING TO RELY ON.

I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE IF YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO SLEEP!


大和屋

YAAAH!

DAMN!

WHO?

LET'S HELP!

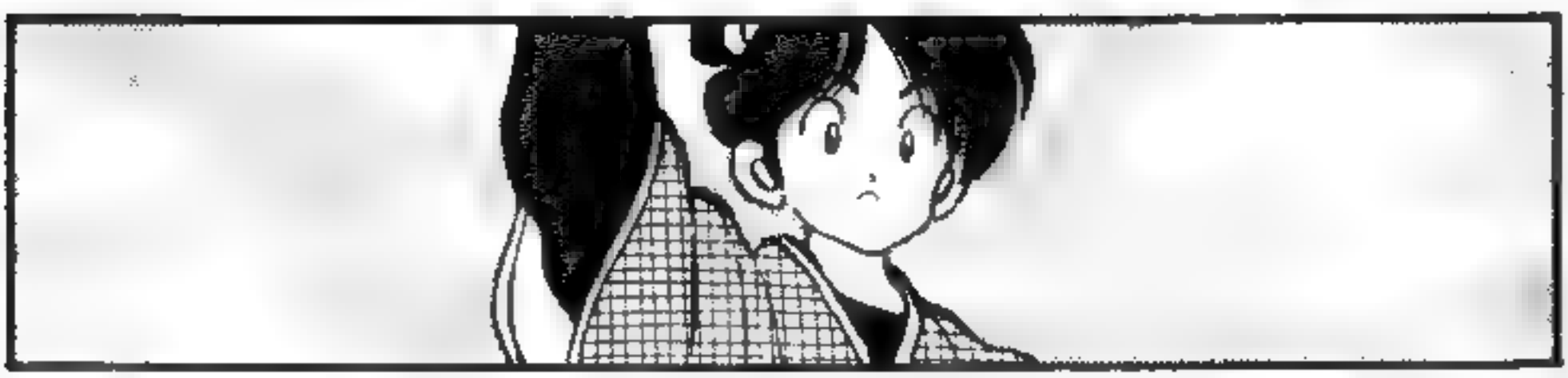
HEY!

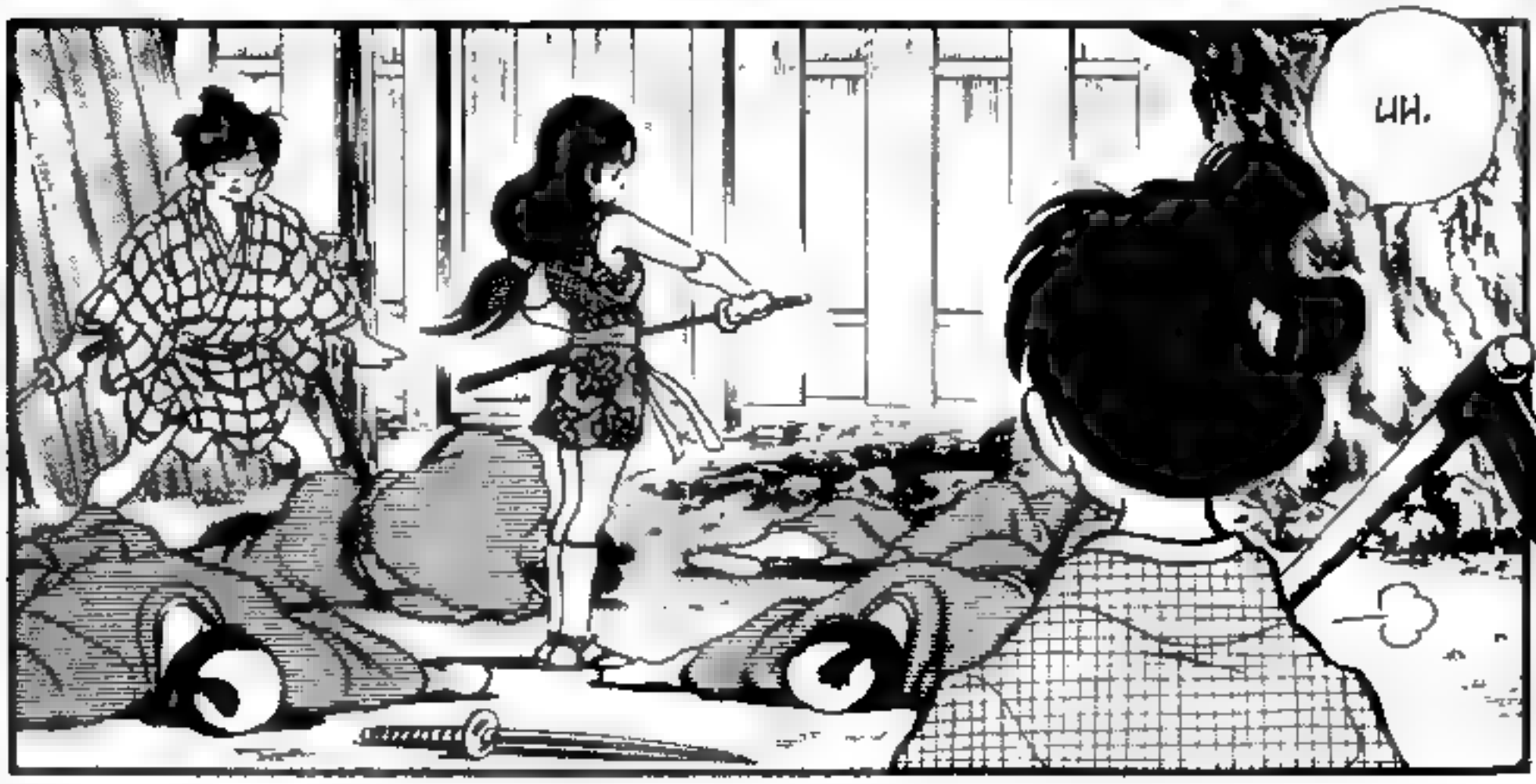
WHO ARE YOU?

HE'S OUT-NUMBERED!

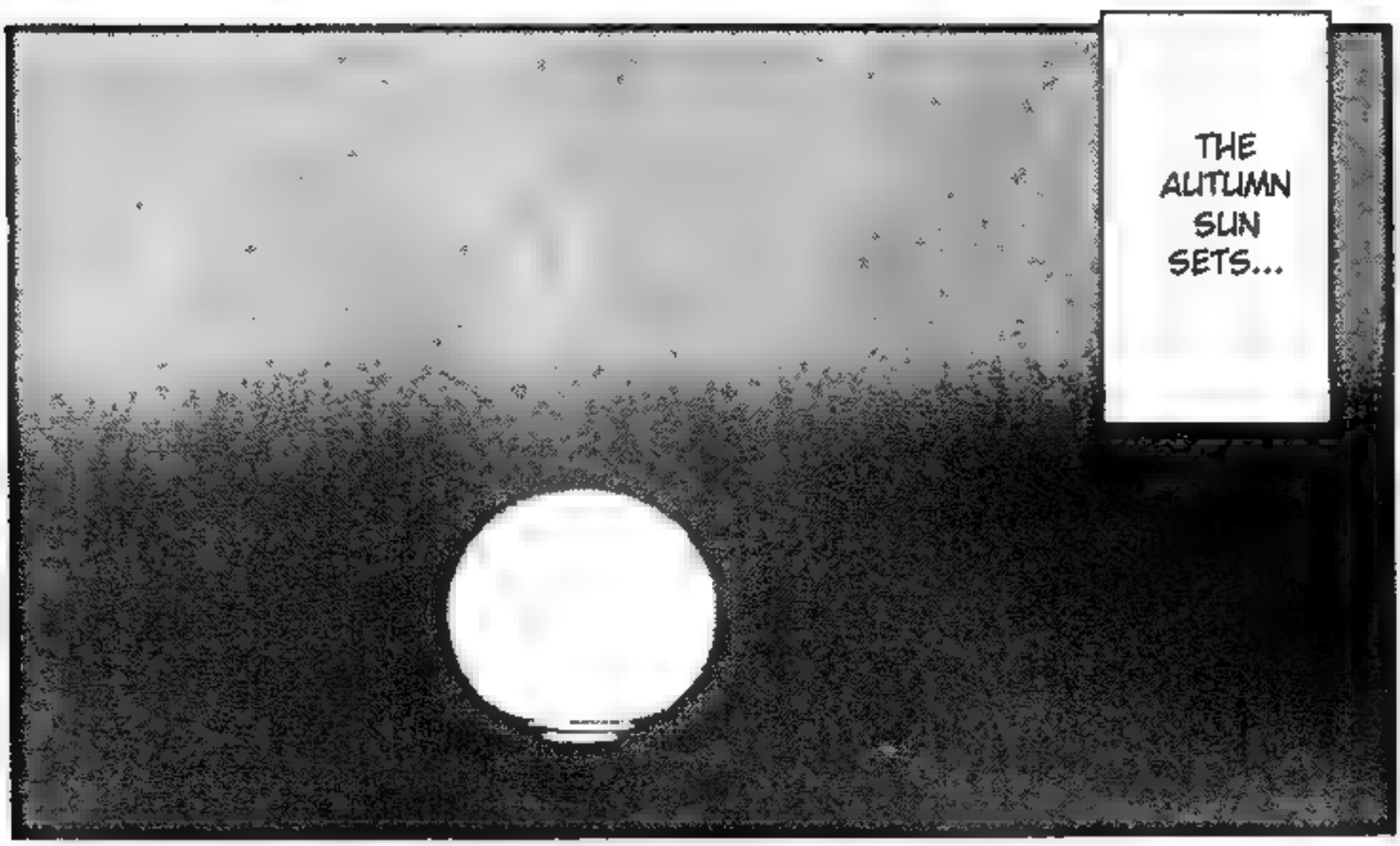
CAN'T YOU TELL ?

HEH!




UH.

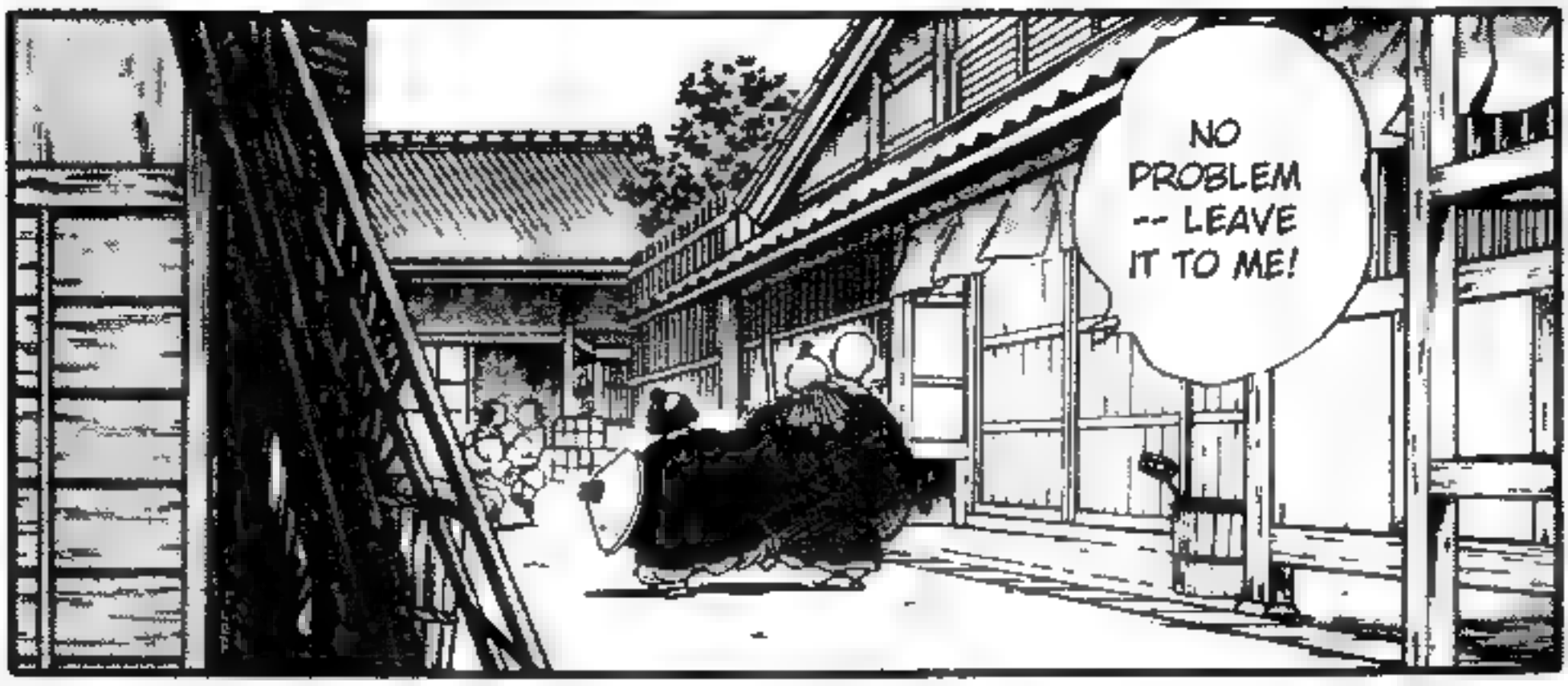
*NOTE: MI-NE PRONOUNCED "MIH-NAY" THE BACK, UNSHARPENED EDGE OF A SWORD.

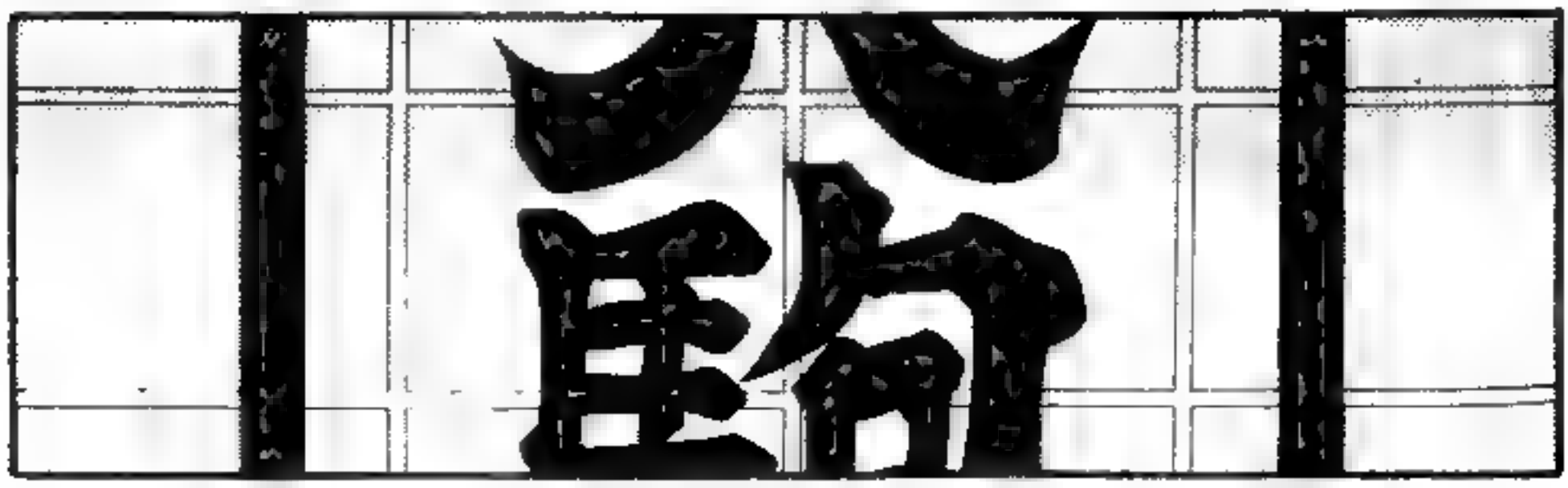


HIC!

THANK YOU! COME AGAIN!
酒

SO, WHERE'RE WE STAYING?
HRP ...
THAT WAS GREAT!
HA!


NO PROBLEM -- LEAVE IT TO ME!


民宿

*SIGN: OOKOMA

大駒

大駒

HEY, BIG GUY!

WE'RE HERE TO GAMBOL AND GAMBLE, YOU KNOW?

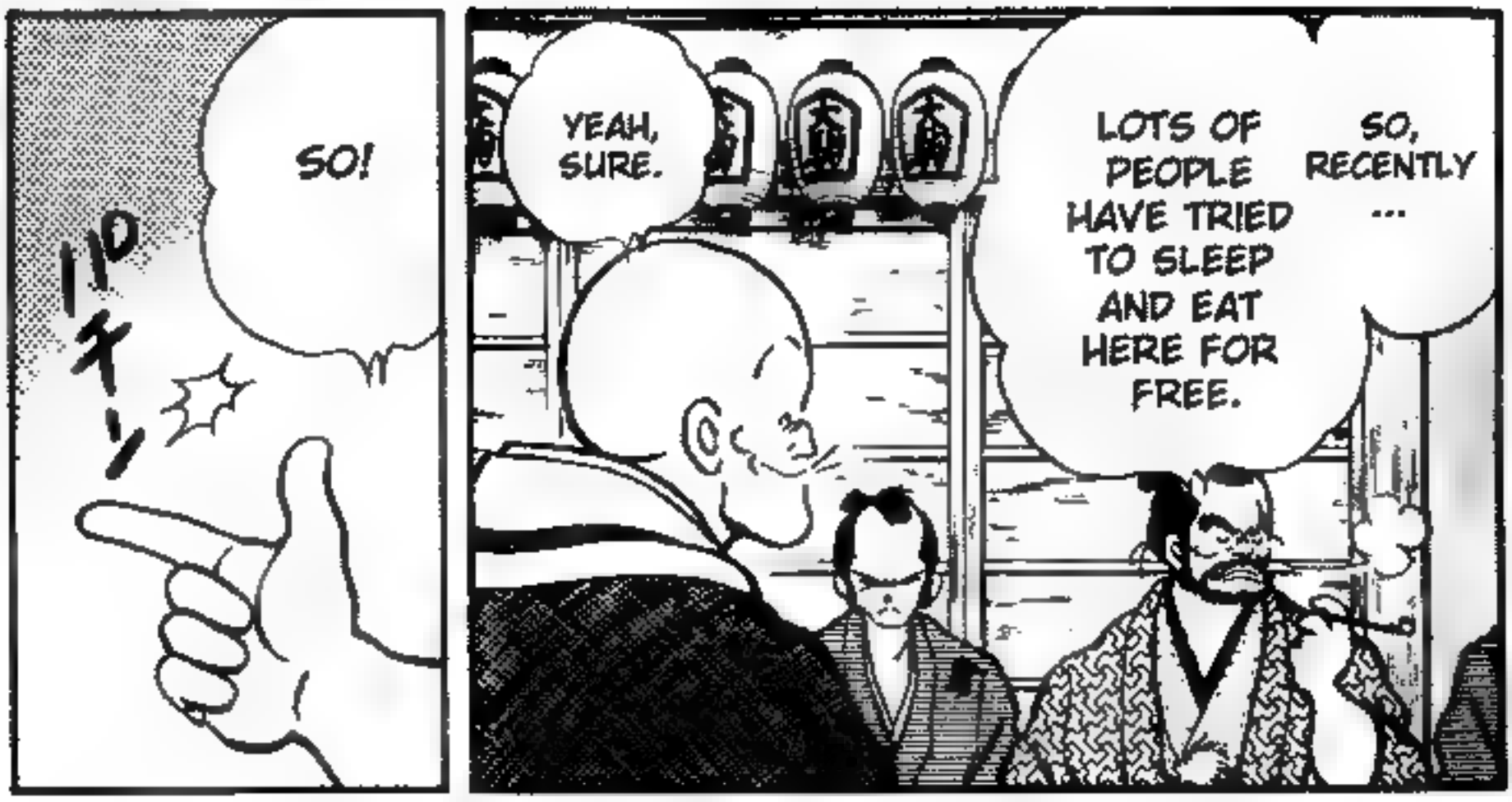
YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DRINK HERE?

I CAN SEE.

YEAH!

YEAH!

WE HAVE GOOD BUSINESS AND WE KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF OUT-OF-TOWNERS.


SO!
ピン
YEAH, SURE.
LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO SLEEP AND EAT HERE FOR FREE.
SO, RECENTLY ...

YAAH!
WE HAVE TO ESTABLISH YOUR CREDENTIALS.

HE!
HE!
HEH!
GAK!
HIC!
WE'VE FINISHED CHECKING!
STOP! TIME OUT!
YOU'VE PASSED!
BRING OUT THE BEST WINES!
TAKE THEM TO THEIR ROOM!
大駒
大駒
大駒
大駒
大駒

SORRY, BUT THE KID...
THE NORMAL STUFF'LL BE OKAY.
NAHH ...
HEH!
SHOW THEM IN!
THE LITTLE SIR PASSES TOO!

SIGH

WHY ARE YOU STILL STANDING AROUND?!

PREPARE THE APPETIZERS! THE MANGA!

駒

駒

駒

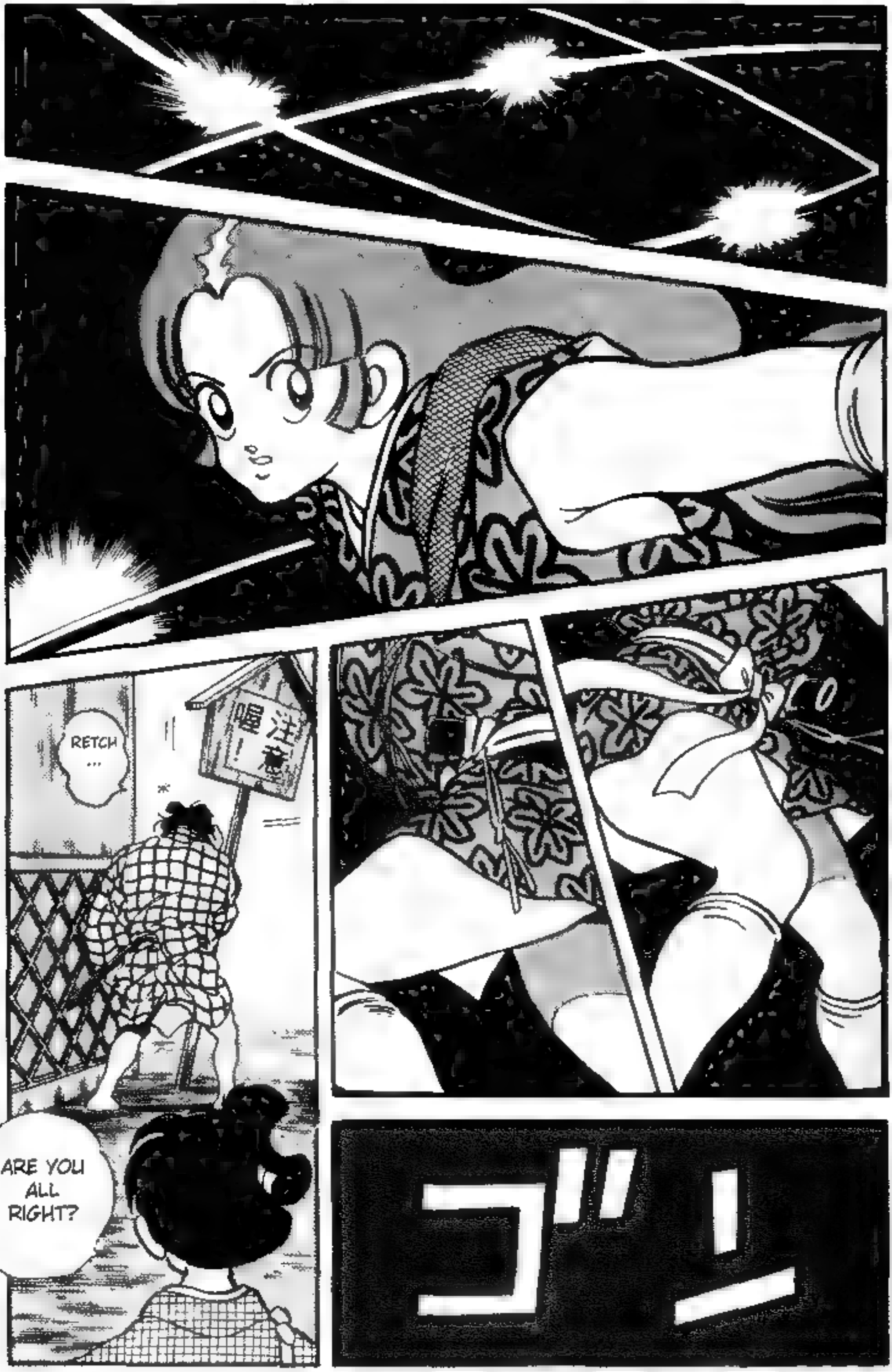
YEAH?

BOSS ...

THEY BE USEFUL.

HEH.

ABOUT TIME TO SETTLE THINGS WITH THE KOIDE FAMILY.



*"CAREFUL!"

NO..

I COULDN'T.

I JUST SAW THAT YOU WERE OUT-NUMBERED AND PITCHED IN. WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING.

PLEASE?

LET ME HOST YOU FOR A FEW DAYS!

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO GIVE IN GRATITUDE...

P...

PLEASE COME ON IN.

I...

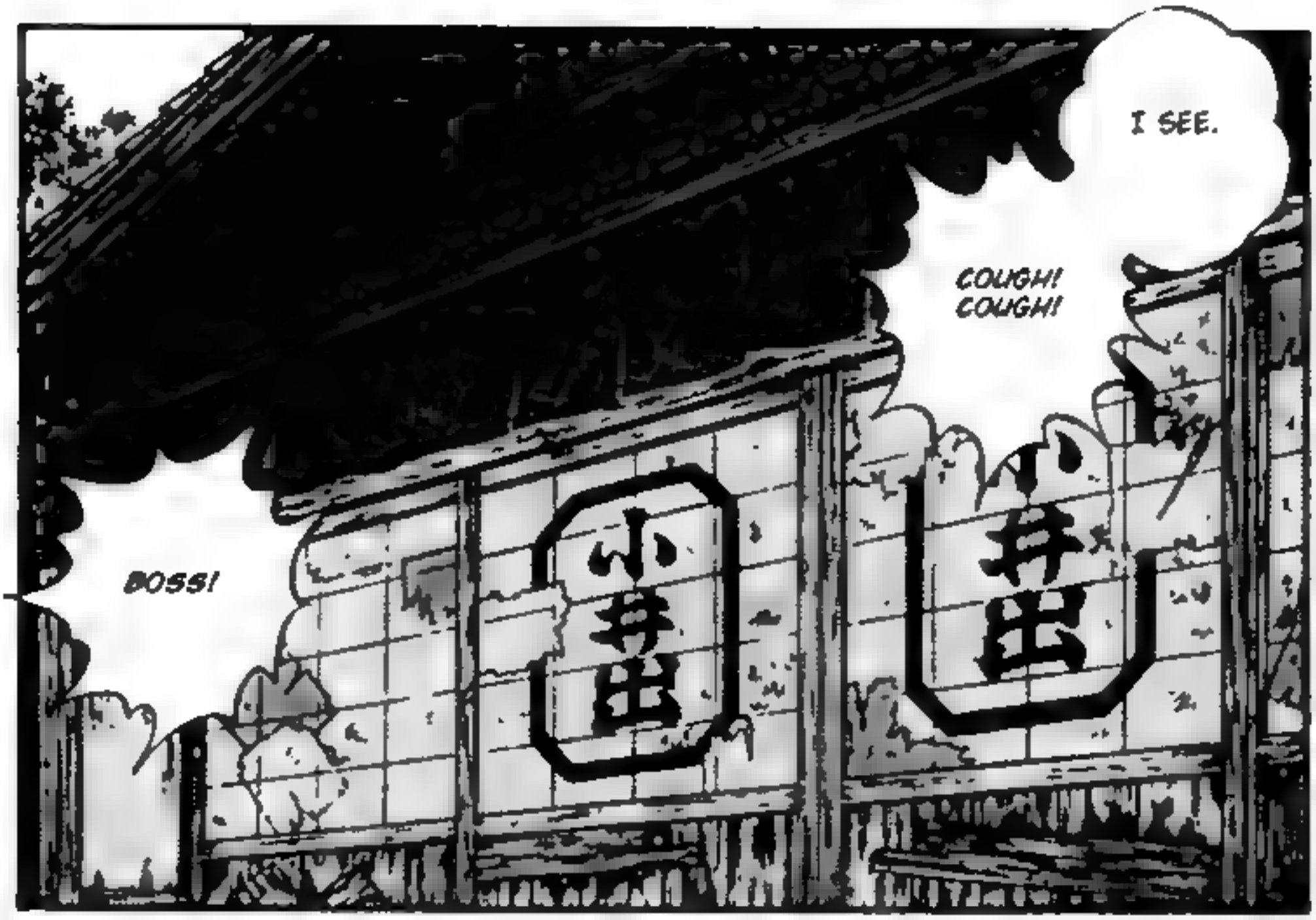
I'S RIGHT HERE.

KARMA IS A SPECIAL AND MIRACULOUS THING!

小井出

小井出

PART 41 -- THERE AND HERE


I SEE.
COUGH! COUGH!
BOSS!
小井出

COUGH!
SIGH.
DON'T WORRY.
DAD, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

NO...
WE WON'T MIND.
HOW EMBARRASSING ...

"HEART OF A GOD, THAT KOIDE, FAIREST OF BOSSES,..."

WHY THEY USED TO SING BALLADS ABOUT ME!

HEH!

YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL THAT I'M PRETTY RESPECTED IN THESE PARTS.

I'M THIS BOY'S FATHER, BUNZOU KOIDE.

COUGH COUGH!

...THAT IS, BEFORE OOKOMA CAME.

NO WONDER OUR MEN DESERTED.

YOU DIDN'T SAY A WORD WHEN THEY STOLE HALF OF OUR FUTONS!

THEY DIDN'T STEAL THEM; I GAVE THEM UP WILLINGLY.

"THANK THE HEAVENS FOR OUR NEW BOSS"

NOW THEY SING,

"HURRAH! HURRAH!"

IT'S A BIG VILLAGE!

NOTHING'S WRONG WITH TWO FAMILIES AS LONG AS IT'S FAIR!

BUT YOU LET THEM TAKE HALF OUR CUSTOMERS!

DON'T YOU SEE?!

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS A RECENT THING!

EVENTUALLY THEY'LL GIVE UP. BESIDES OOKOMA'S AN HONORABLE MAN.

HE WOULDN'T DO ANY-THING TO A SICK OLD MAN LIKE ME.

COUGH!

INCITING US TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE SO THEY HAVE AN EXCUSE TO GET RID OF US IN ONE FELL SWOOP!

THEIR MEN COME LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!

COUGH!

SORRY FOR ALL THIS.
COUGH !
IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, WE HAVE GUESTS, SO STOP YOUR YAPPING!
DAD! YOU HAVE TO STAND UP TO THEM!

NO ..
WE WON'T MIND.

SHUT UP AND DO IT!

LITTLE MASTER, WASN'T THIS YOUR MOTHER'S...

BUT,

YASUSHI ...

TAKE THIS TO THE PAWNSHOP.

PLEASE!

GO AHEAD.

WOW!

虹色辣椒❺

ARE THESE TWO YOUR ONLY MEN?
HECK NO!
DON'T JUDGE BY APPEARANCES; WE'VE GOT TWENTY OR SO!
小井出

MMM ..

SHUSH!
SERVITUDE DOESN'T PAY MUCH; THE OTHERS ARE OUT WORKING...

SORRY ...

わっはっは
ドーン
チャーン
ドーン
チャーン
大駒

HA!

BOSS.

QUIET! IT'S JUST BRUISES!

YOW!

OH! BOSS!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SO ...

THESE BRUISES ARE ALL FROM THE MI-NE?

NOTHING ...

THAT KOIDE KID CAME OUT TODAY TO BUY NOODLES, SO I TOOK A FEW BROTHERS TO DO, YOU KNOW, THE USUAL...

GUTLESS!

SOME CHICK CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND WHUPPED OUR ASSES, AND THIS IMBECILE RAN AWAY THE FASTEST!

BUT MR. IDIOT HERE WIMPED OUT...

OH?

IT'S ONLY A SMALL BRUI...

YOW!

YEAH!

NOT ENOUGH OF AN EXCUSE FOR A CHAL-LENGE!

HE'LL NEED A DOCTOR.

AAAA!!!

BOSS??

WAHAHA!!

HAHAHA!!

CLANG!

THAT SHOULD BE AMPLE EXCUSE TO WRECK UP THE KOIVE'S.

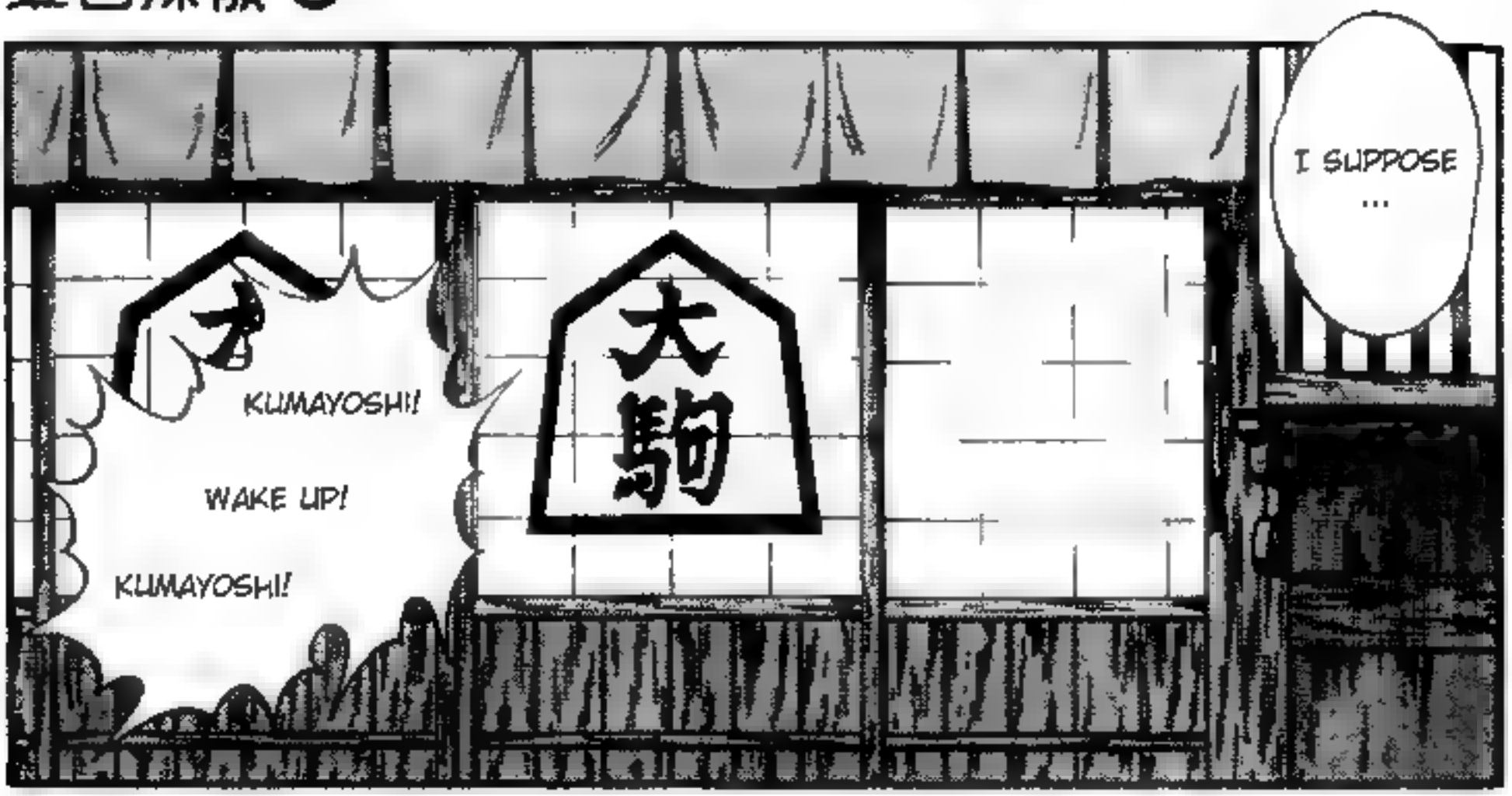
BETTER RECRUIT THEM EARLY.

I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO LET THOSE EAT AND DRINK FOR FREE.

REALLY?

I DIDN'T HURT ANYTHING VITAL.

DON'T WORRY.


I SUPPOSE ...
KUMAYOSHI!
WAKE UP!
KUMAYOSHI!
大駒
小出

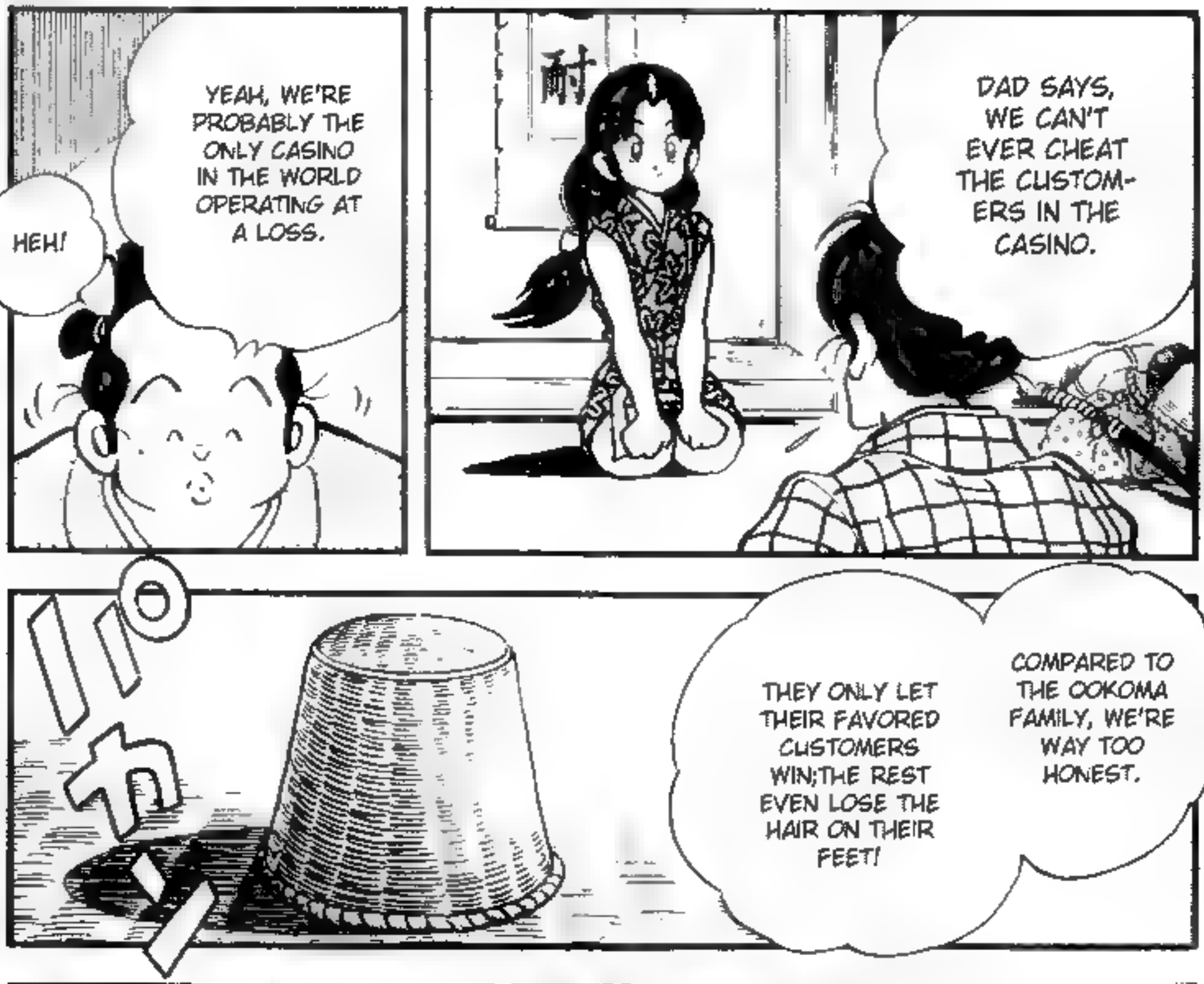
カラ～ン

WOW! THAT IS NEAT!

SHUT UP!

NO JOKE; OUR LITTLE MASTER HERE COULD CHEAT THE GODS AT DICE!

HEH ...


YEAH, WE'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY CASINO IN THE WORLD OPERATING AT A LOSS.
HEH!
耐
DAD SAYS, WE CAN'T EVER CHEAT THE CUSTOM-ERS IN THE CASINO.
ドン
THEY ONLY LET THEIR FAVORED CUSTOMERS WIN;THE REST EVEN LOSE THE HAIR ON THEIR FEET!
COMPARED TO THE OOKOMA FAMILY, WE'RE WAY TOO HONEST.
HOO
THAT WAS GREAT!
NO CRUDE METAPHORS IN FRONT OF THE LADY!
ガラ

カッコォ

OKAY!

NATANE, YOUR TURN!

WHA?

HAH ?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, JERK?!

THIS WAY!

MISS NATANE, I'LL SHOW YOU THE BATH!

I THINK HE LIKES MISS NATANE A LOT.

HAVEN'T SEEN THE YOUNG MASTER SO HAPPY IN SUCH A LONG TIME.

FOR THE YOUNG MASTER!

PLEASE STAY A FEW MORE DAYS AS OUR GUESTS!

PLEASE!

IT'S ALL OOKOMA'S FAULT FOR THE STATE OF OUR HOTEL.

LOOKS LIKE IT.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RIDING NATANE'S COATTAILS.

OH?

COUGH!

COUGH!

HEY!

I'M HUNGRY!

小出

小出

YASUSHI!

KINJI!

ANYONE!

YOUR BOSS IS CALLING!

YOO HOO!

COUGH!

閣下請回吧！

の巻

COUGH!

COUGH!

ANOTHER BOWL!

OH?

I'VE SLEPT ALL DAY WITHOUT FOOD.

WHO TOLD YOU TO COUNT?

BOSS, THIS IS YOUR FOURTH BOWL...

WHERE'S CHOUJIROU? WHERE'D HE GO?

OH?

HEH!

WENT FOR A WALK BY THE RIVER.

THE *YOUNG* MASTER AND MISS NATANE...

WE HAVE THE SAME TASTES; THAT GIRL LOOKS ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE HIS MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.

DEFINITELY TAKES AFTER THE OLD MAN!

LOOKS LIKE THE KID KNOWS WHEN TO SEIZE *OPPOURTUNITIES!*

SO, HOW DID SHE CHANGE SO RADICALL...

HAW, YOU OLD CAD!

DAD AND MOM LIKED TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED; THEY'D INVITE UNFORTUNATES IN, AND SLOWLY THEY'D GET ABSORBED INTO OUR FAMILY.

THE KINDEST FAMILY IN THE REGION.

DAD DOESN'T SEEM VERY USEFUL, BUT HE HAS HIS GOOD POINTS.

NO BUSINESS IS EASY.

BUT THAT'S ALSO WHAT GOT US NTO THIS SITUATION.

EVER SINCE MOM PASSED AWAY AND OOKAMA CAME, BUSINESS SANK LIKE A ROCK.

ESPECIALLY THAT OF A PUSHOVER FAMILY!

SIR...

HOW MUCH FOR A STICK?

OH?

...FOUR WEN

LOST MY DANGO!

IT'S JUST A LITTLE FALL. C'MON, DON'T CRY OVER THAT!

DANGO ?

FOUR WEN

HOW MUCH, DID YOU SAY?

THREE, PLEASE.

OKAY.

THANK YOU!

だんご

THANK YOU, MASTER KOIDE!

THANK YOU, ONEECHAN!

HERE

THIS IS FROM MASTER KOIDE.

HERE!

FIRST YOU NEED PUBLIC SUPPORT.

DON'T EVER LOSE TO THOSE EVIL FAMILIES.

YOUNG MASTER

UM... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...

SO I

YOUNG MASTER !

IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD...

MORE GUTS WHEN MOM WAS ALIVE...

WHAT?

TH...THERE'S TROUBLE!

GET OUT OF THERE, BUNZOU!
小井出
COUGH
COUGH
!

SOME GUESTS OF YOURS HURT OUR KUMAYOSHI BADLY!

LOOK AT THIS DIAGNOSIS FROM THE DOCTOR

YOU BETTER GIVE THEM UP, OR ELSE!

WE CAN'T IGNORE THIS; WHAT WOULD PEOPLE THINK OF US?!

THE DOCTOR SAYS HE'LL NEED SIX MONTHS TO RE-COVER, AND EVEN THEN HE'LL BE UNABLE TO RETURN TO WORK!

COUGH !

DIDN'T I SAY HE WENT OUT FOR A WALK WITH MISS NATANE?

WHERE'S CHOUJIROU?

B... BOSS!

THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU'RE PERFECTLY FINE AND IN GOOD HEALTH!

THIS IS FROM YOUR CHECKUP THREE DAYS AGO!

BUNZOU!

I HAVE ANOTHER DIAGNOSIS FROM YOUR DOCTOR.

COUGH!

COUGH!

. . .

SO STOP FAKING ILLNESS! WE SAW THROUGH THAT A LONG TIME AGO!

IF YOU'RE NOT COMING OUT, WE'RE COMING IN!

HEY!

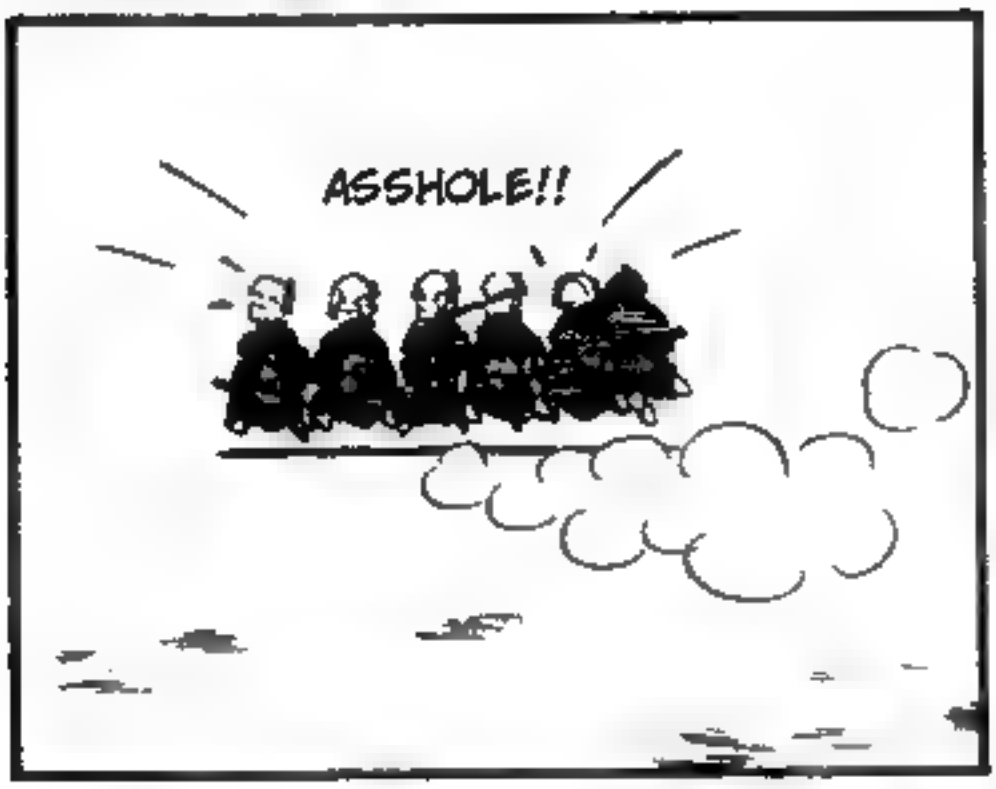
I KNEW IT!

MOVE AWAY, YA WIMPS!

PLEASE GO BACK, SIRS!

BRAT!

OH!
YES!
WE HEARD.
YES...
I SAID, GO BACK!
BUT COULD YOU GIVE THIS TO BOSS KOIDE?
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, YOUNG SIR.


ASSHOLE!!

COME, MY BROTHERS...
LET'S GO!

CHALLENGE

DAD!

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT STILL SAYS "CHALLENGE"!

CHALLENGE

DON'T WORRY, BOSS!

YEAH! I DIDN'T DARE SAY ANY-THING BEFORE, BUT WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM!

A REAL MAN WOULD START PRE-PARING FOR IT!

STOP PLAYING DUMB!

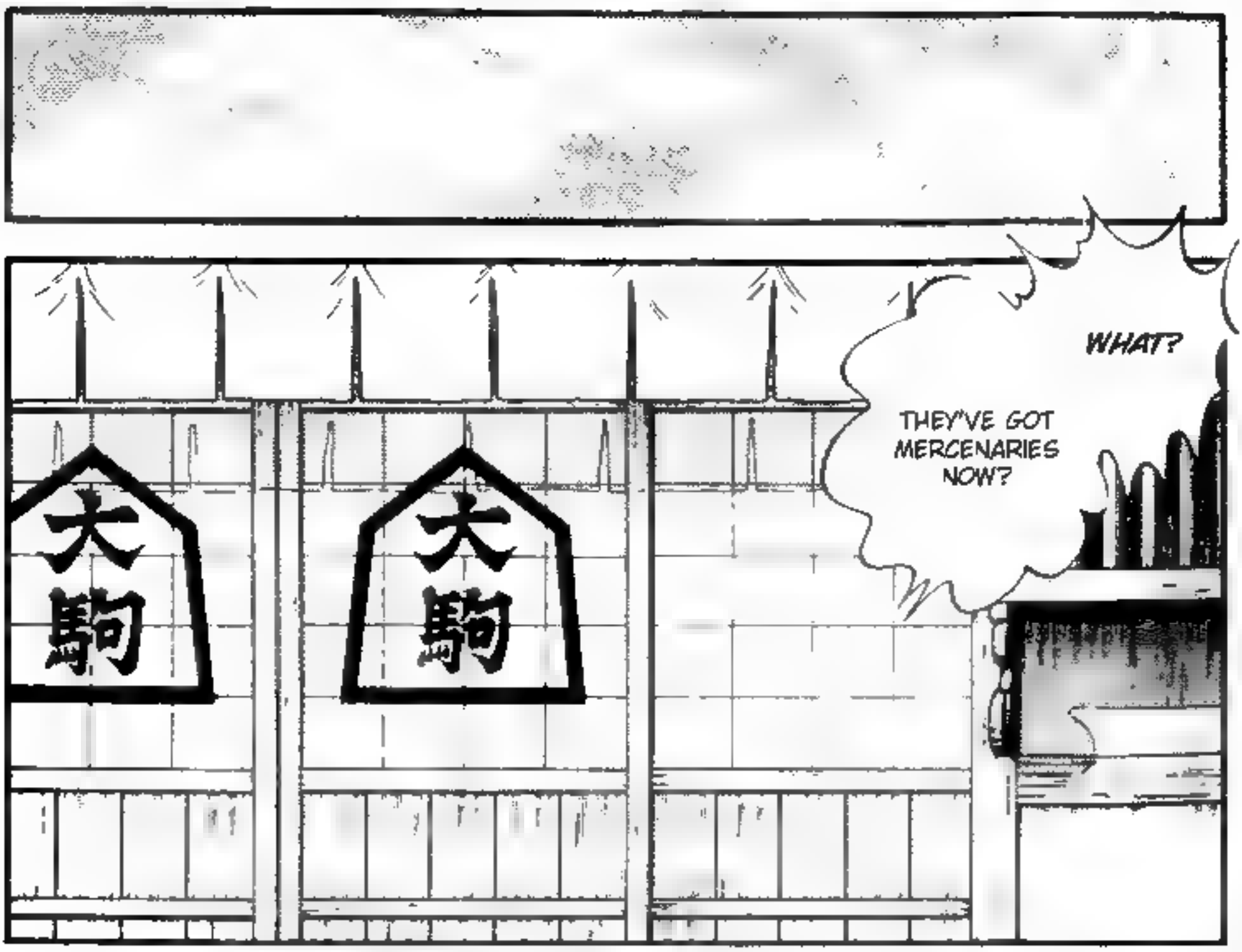
CHALLENGE?

WITH THESE THREE, HOW CAN WE FEAR OOKOMA?

HEY!

WE HAVE SHICHIMI AND MISS NATANE, BOTH EXPERT FIGHTERS...OH, AND THE LITTLE KID WITH GLASSES!

.....


大駒
大駒
WHAT?
THEY'VE GOT MERCENARIES NOW?

NOT GOING TO BE AS EASY AS WE THOUGHT...
HMM ...

YEP!
PRETTY TOUGH ONES, TOO.

YEAH!

HEY, BIG GUY!

WE COULD USE MORE WINE.

WITH THOSE TWO FREELOADING, I'M GOING TO GO BANKRUPT SOON.

BETTER FINISH THIS OFF QUICKLY!

WE HAVE HELP TOO, AND OUR BROTHERS CAN CREAM ANY OF THEIR MONKEY-BOYS.

DON'T WORRY, BOSS!

HEY!

WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO TAKE THAT BARREL OF WINE!?

OKAY.

ONE DINNER, ONE NIGHT, FORTY RYOU EXTRA

SHICHIMI,
CHINPI,
NATANE,
YES.
I'M SORRY TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST OF YOU, BUT COULD YOU THREE LEAVE THIS HOUSE?
B...
BOSS?
HAH?

I ONCE PROMISED HER, THAT IN THIS PROFESSION I WOULD NEVER CAUSE TROUBLE TO ANYBODY WHO WAS UNINVOLVED.

IT'S BECAUSE OF MY DEAD WIFE...

I HOPE IT WON'T INCONVE-NIENCE YOU.

SHUT UP!

WEREN'T YOU FAKING ILLNESS AND ESCAPING REALITY ALL THIS TIM...

HEY, WHY IS HE SHOWING HONOR ALL OF A SUDDEN?

*SIGN: KOIDE

小井出

NO, SIR.

CHOUJIROU, DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT, US LEAVING LIKE THIS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SORRY...
FOR KICKING YOU OUT ON SUCH A SHORT NOTICE...

YOUR FATHER IS A VERY HONORABLE LEADER; YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF HIM.

CAN'T CHARGE FOR OUR HOSPITALITY, YOU KNOW.
ACTUALLY, EVEN IF DAD HADN'T MENTIONED IT, I WOULD HAVE MYSELF.

I'D LIKE IT AS A LUCKY CHARM, TO PUT IN MY HEAD-BAND.

COULD I HAVE A STRAND OF YOUR HAIR?

WHAT?

I HAVE A SMALL REQUEST, THOUGH...

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR JOURNEY...

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

小井

A BIT TOO HONEST, THOSE THREE.

DANG, SO THEY REALLY LEFT.

.....

JUST WAIT TILL DUSK, THEN WE'LL SEARCH THE TAVERNS. WE'LL FIND THEM.

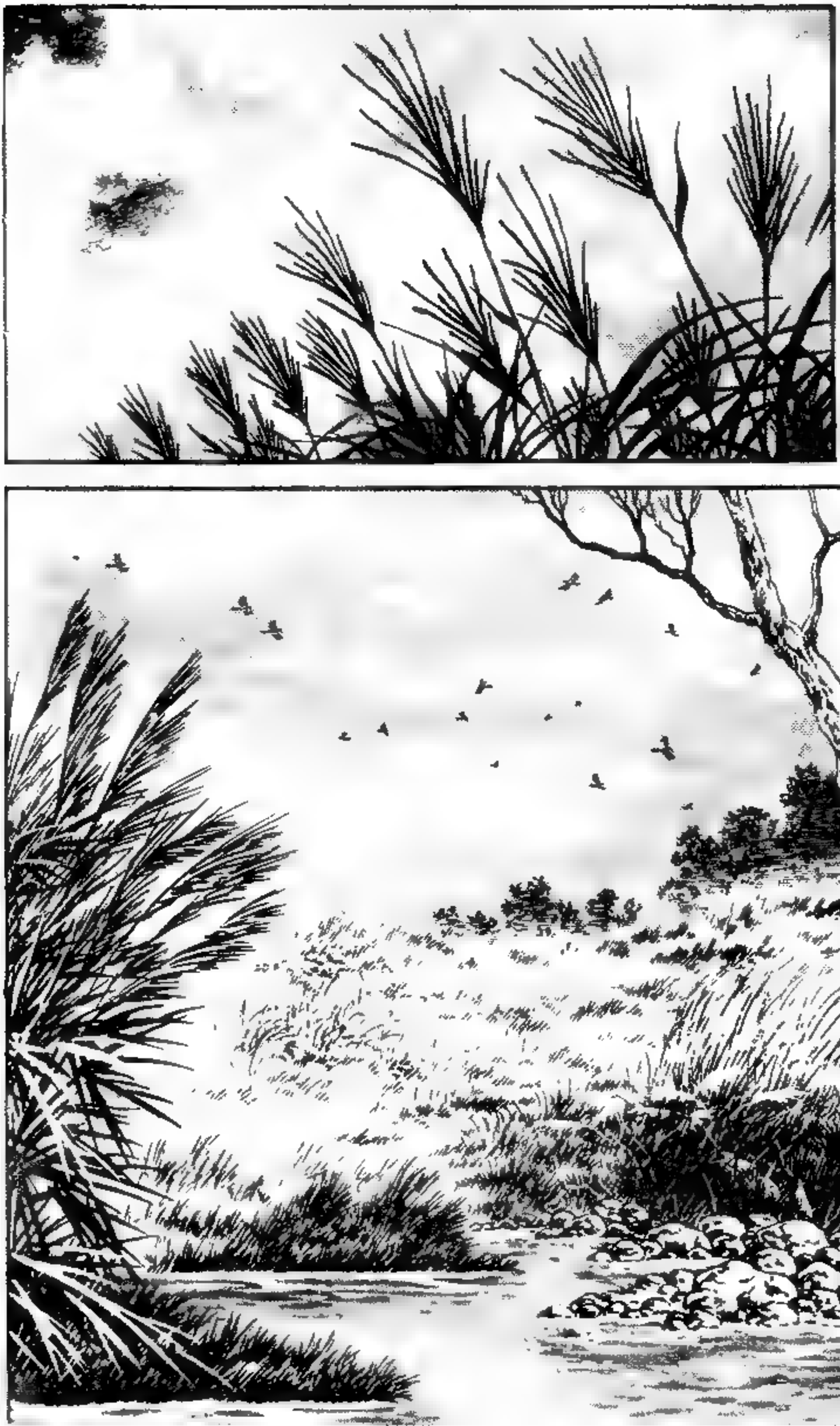
WHERE DID ONI-CHAN AND THE REST GO?

YEAH, OF COURSE.

HMM ...

THIS WAY.

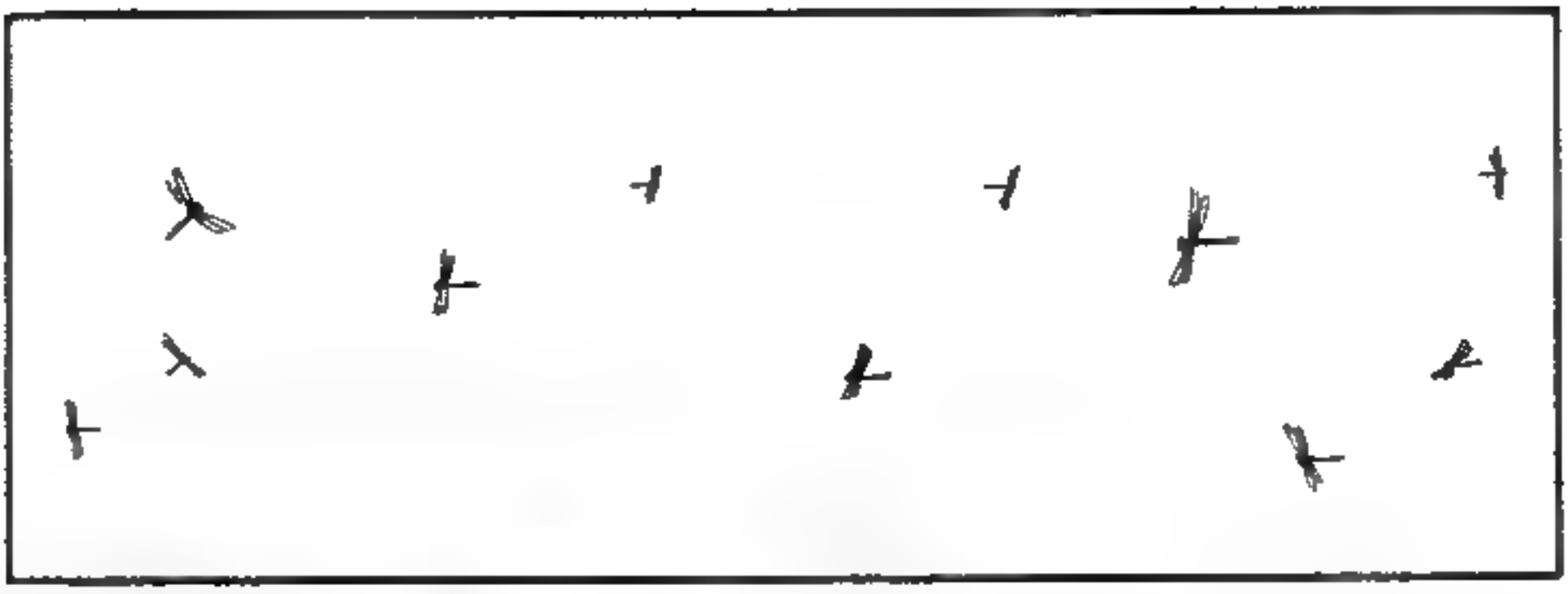
WHERE'S THE APPOINTED FIGHTING PLACE?

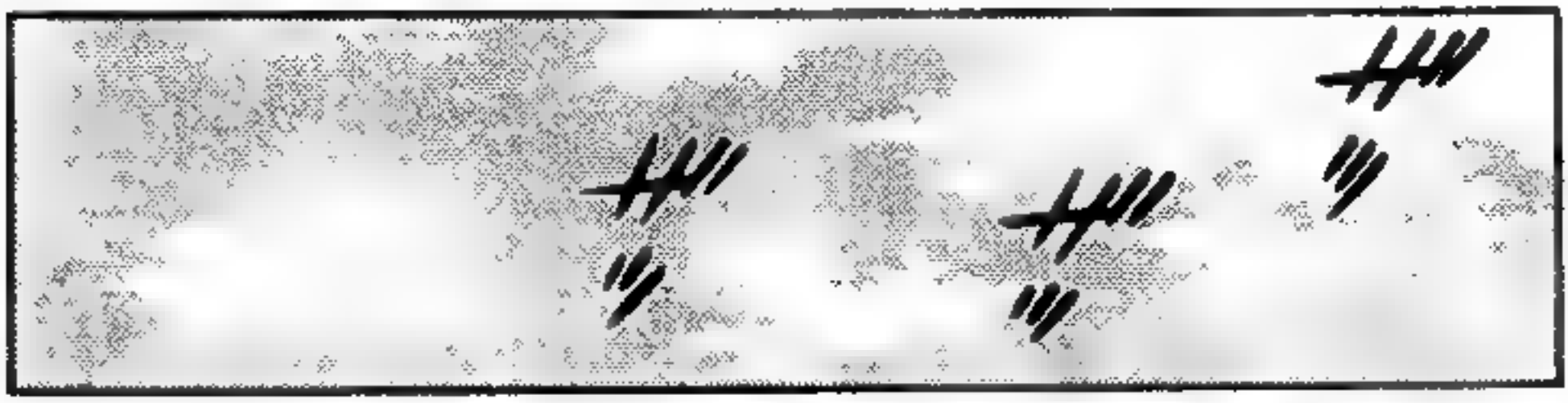


GUARDS.
AWFULLY SUSPICIOUS.

LOOKS LIKE THEIR OPPONENT ISN'T VERY HONORABLE AT ALL.

THERE ARE LOTS OF TRAPS HERE!





HAHA!
THE SUN ACTUALLY SHINES ON THE HEAD OF THE BEDDED TURTLE. FINALLY COMING OUT OF YOUR SHELL, EH?
NONE OF THAT SILLY BANTER!
YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF YOU? I'M JUST TOO LAZY TO BOTHER WITH YOU!
MISS ONE MORE DEADLINE,
AND I'LL LET THE READERS SKIN YOU ALIVE, YOU LAZY ARTIST!

"MATSURI"

OH!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO YELL, IT SHOULD BE AT THE FRONT OF THE TROUPE.

HOHO... GREAT.
THAT'LL MAKE THINGS EASIER.
BOSS, I HEAR THEIR GUESTS LEFT THIS MORNING...

WE'LL SHOW YOU THAT VICTORY IS NOT DECIDED BY NUM-BERS!

COME ON! OOKOMA!

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH. WE STILL HAVE A TAVERN TO RUN!

I'LL PLAY WITH YOU SOON ENOUGH!

DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT, BRAT!

YESSIR!

NOW!

YAAAH!

HA!

WHAT KIND OF A TRAP IS THIS!?

IDIOT!

YOW! !

HUH? FUNNY...

YESSIR!

THIS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

THE NEXT ONE!

WHAT KIND OF A TRICK IS THIS?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

BOSS, IF YOU KILL HIM, WE WILL HAVE LOST EVERYBODY!

JUST PERFECT!

GREAT!

BOSS, SIR! WE'VE ALMOST LOST EV-ERYBODY!

HONORABLE GUESTS!!

HEY, NO FAIR PLAYING ALL BY YOURSELF!

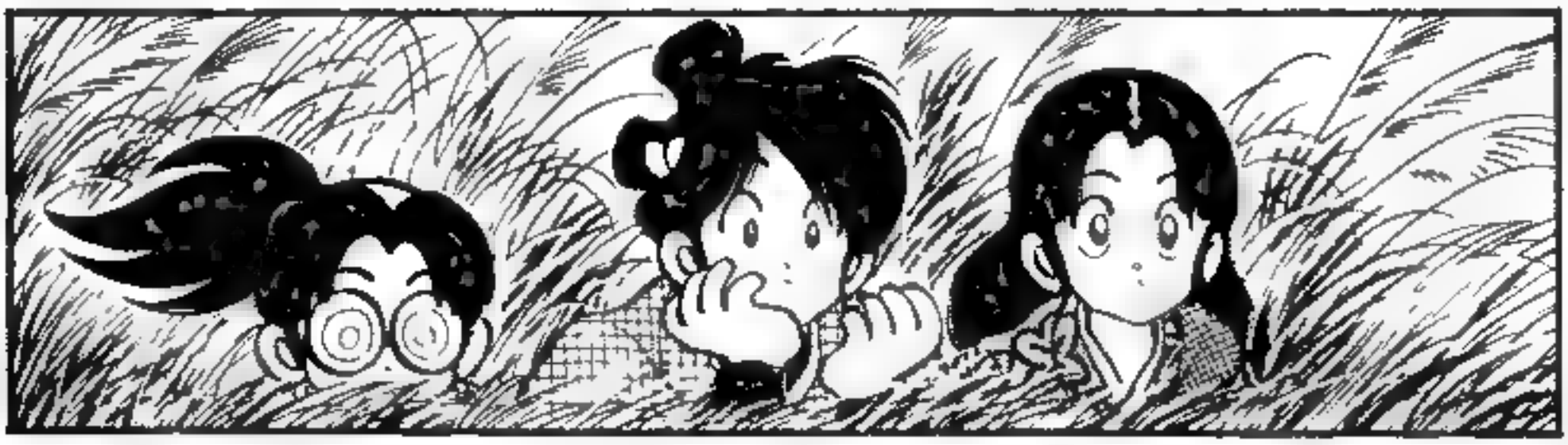
LET US KILL SOME OF YOUR MEN, TOO!

FINALLY, IT'S OUR TURN.

PLEASE GO AHEAD!
YES! YES!

IS THAT RIGHT, BOSS?
TWO RYOU FOR EACH MAN, YOU SAID, A TOTAL OF FORTY RYOU!
LET'S SEE, THERE ARE TWENTY MEN THERE...

HEHEY !!!



IN ANY HONORABLE MATCH, USING SUCH DISHONORABLE TRAPS CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED BY ONE WORD -- "ROTTEN"!!

FOR THE SAKE OF ONE DINNER, ONE NIGHT, AND FORTY RYOU, I WILL FIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE!

HO!

HO!

ごー

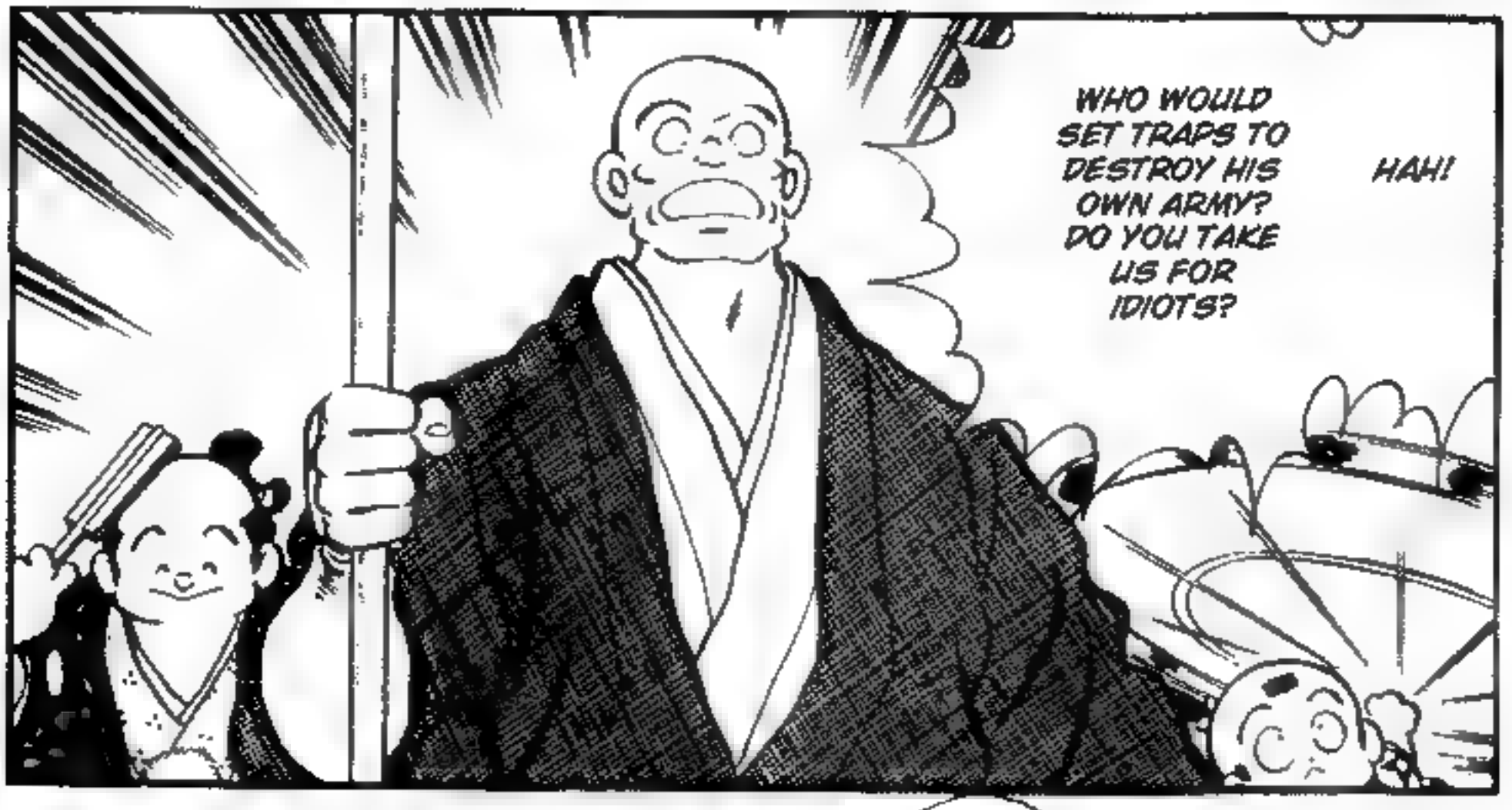
YEAH, HE'S GOT A BIG APPETITE.

ONE DINNER, ONE NIGHT,...

在此邂逅就是
氣數該盡

IT'S DESTINY FOR
US TO MEET HERE

YOU SET THOSE TRAPS YOURSELF!
WHAT KIND OF CRAP ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


WHO WOULD SET TRAPS TO DESTROY HIS OWN ARMY? DO YOU TAKE US FOR IDIOTS?
HAH!

YOU IDIOTS!
YEAH!

SHOW THEM YOUR SKILL!
TWO RYOU FOR EACH ONE YOU DEFEAT!
THERE'S ONLY TWENTY OF THEM!

YAH-HO !!

TWO RYOU!!

HEH!!

EIGHT RYOU!!

FOUR RYOU!!

SIX RYOU!!

TEN RYOU!!

YOU TAKE CARE OF THE KID AND THE PERFORMER.

YEAH...!

GEE, THAT MONK'S TOUGH!

DANGIT!

TWENTY-FOUR RYOU!!

TWENTY-TWO RYOU!!

HEY!

I DO THINK I'VE LOST COUNT!
HMM...
ALEX

SHICHIMI?

WHAT?

THIS STINKING MONK IS THE ASSASSIN OF MY MOTHER!

I'M NOT HELPING YOU!

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE!

IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN, I COULDN'T FACE MY WIFE!

NO, DON'T FIGHT FOR US!

YEAH...MUST BE A GIFT OF THE GODS...

DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE HIM HERE; THIS MUST BE A GIFT OF THE GODS!!

JUST FOR HIS DRINKING HABIT, HE BROKE INTO MY HOUSE, STOLE OUR MONEY, AND KILLED MY MOTHER!

SHUT UP AND FIGHT!

HMPH!

HE'S JUST A KID.

BOSS!

HE'S ONE OF THE MERCENARIES BOSS KO'DE HIRED!

JEEZ, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D SAY SUCH THINGS!

C'MON!

LET'S GO!

SO, UH, LET'S LET HIM AVENGE HIS MOTHER!

SHICHIMI ...

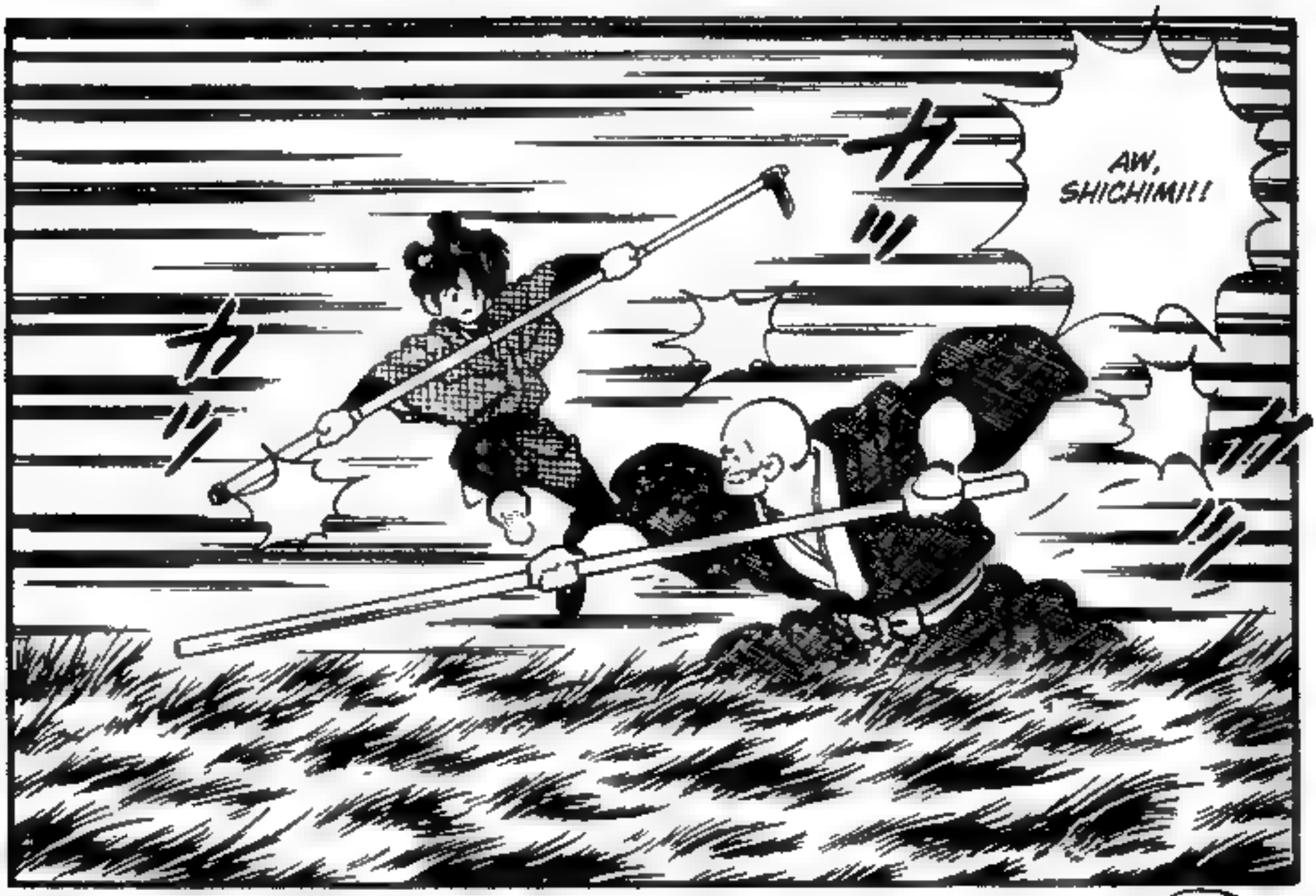
HOW MUCH ARE YOU GETTING ON YOUR SIDE?

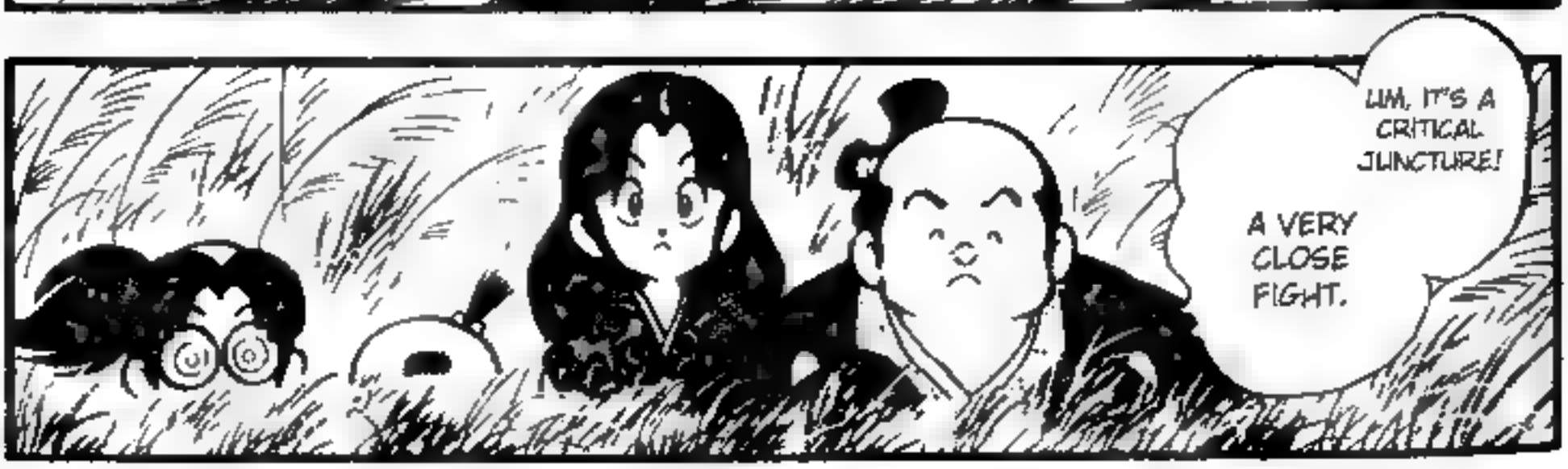
NOTHING. FOR JUSTICE.

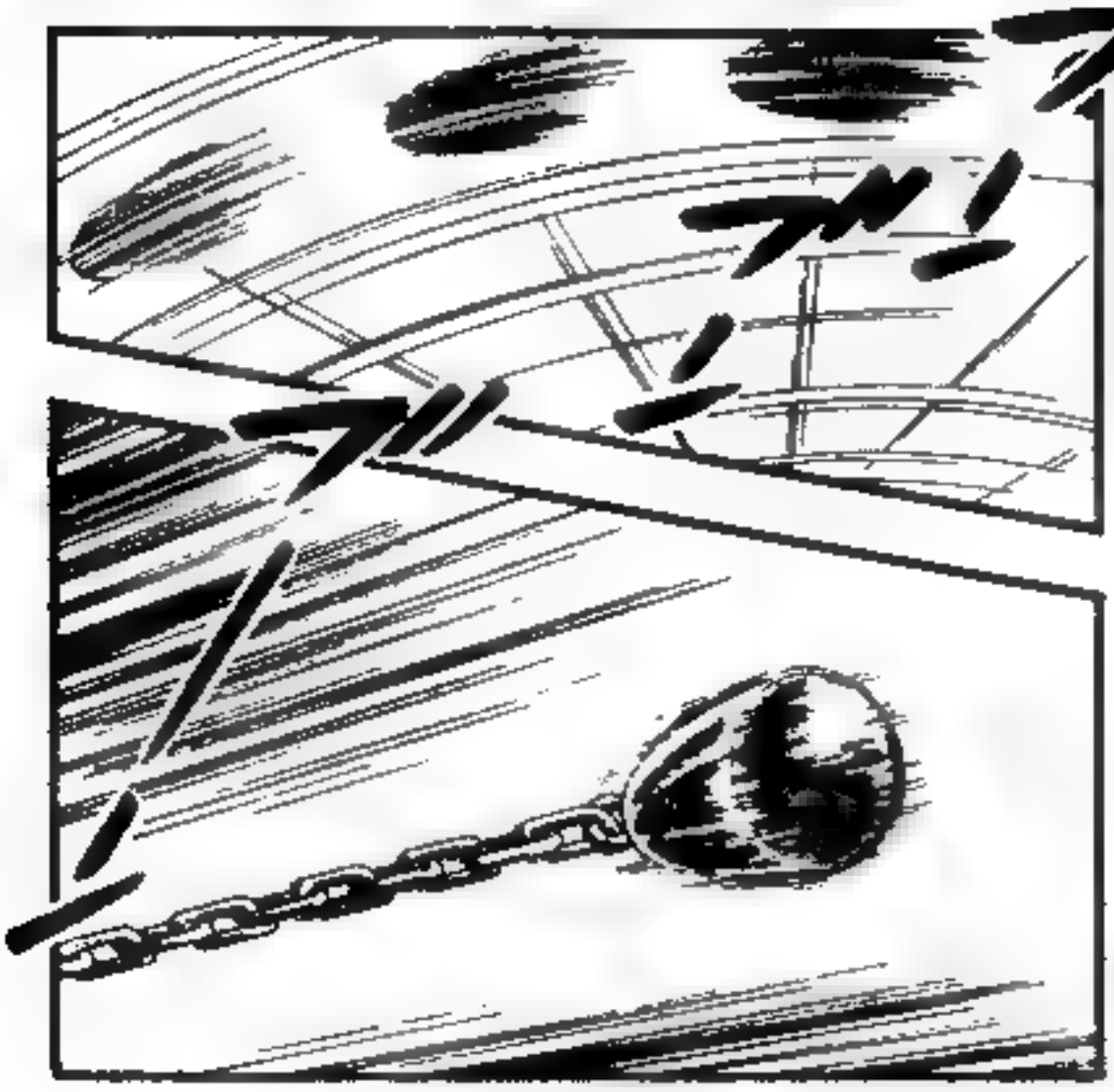
I'VE GOT FORTY RYOU OVER HERE;

IF YOU THROW THE FIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU HALF!

WHADDAYA SAY?


AW, SHICHIMI!!!


UM, IT'S A CRITICAL JUNCTURE!
A VERY CLOSE FIGHT.



HAH!
IT'S JUST A WASTE OF TIME!

YAAAH!

PREPARE TO DIE, OOKAMA!

UH... THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

PLEASE! TAKE MY SWORD! FINISH HIM!

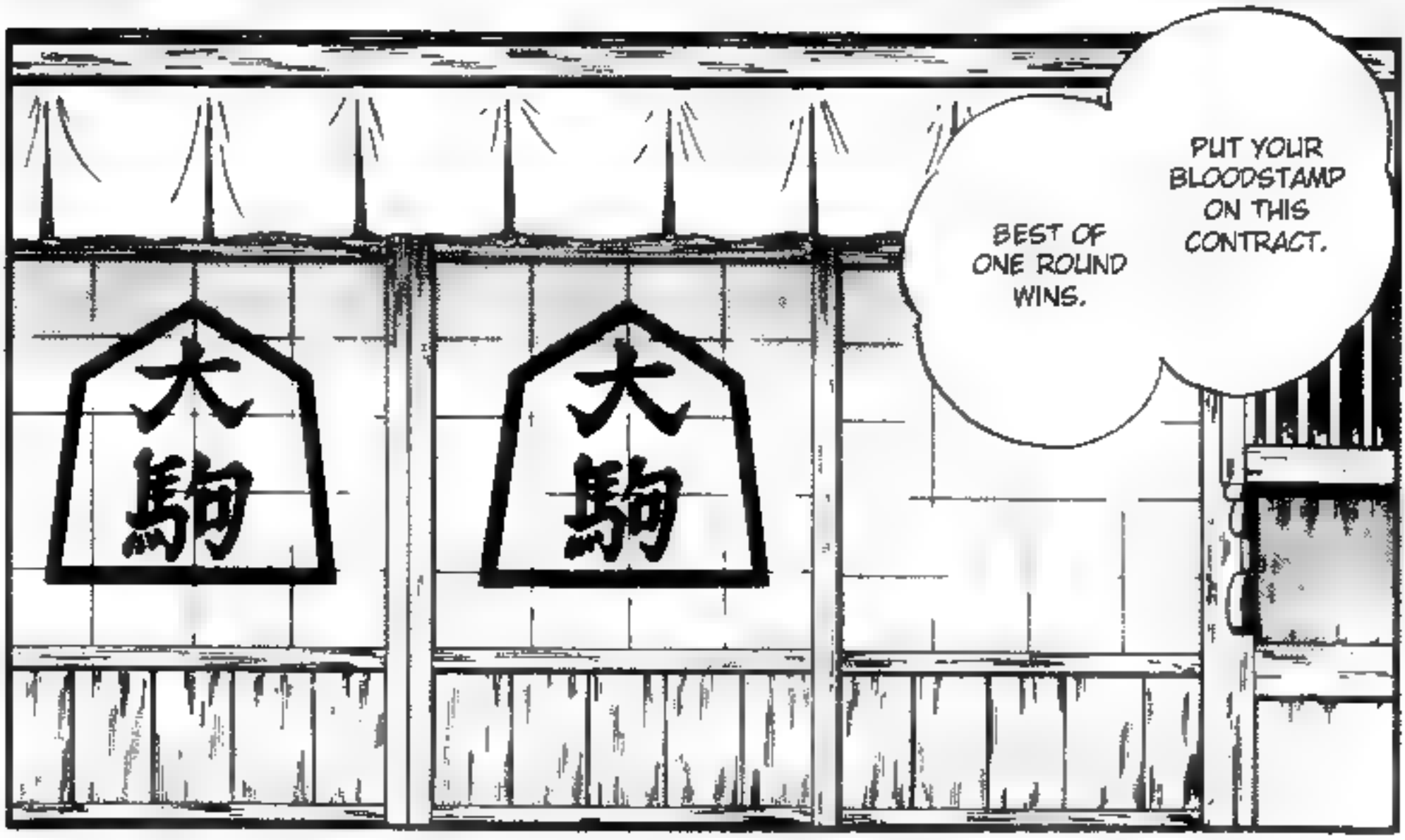
HERO SHICHIMI!

STOP, CHOUJIROU.

SINCE BOTH OF US RUN CASINOS, WHY NOT SETTLE THE MATTER OVER DICE INSTEAD OF SWORDS?

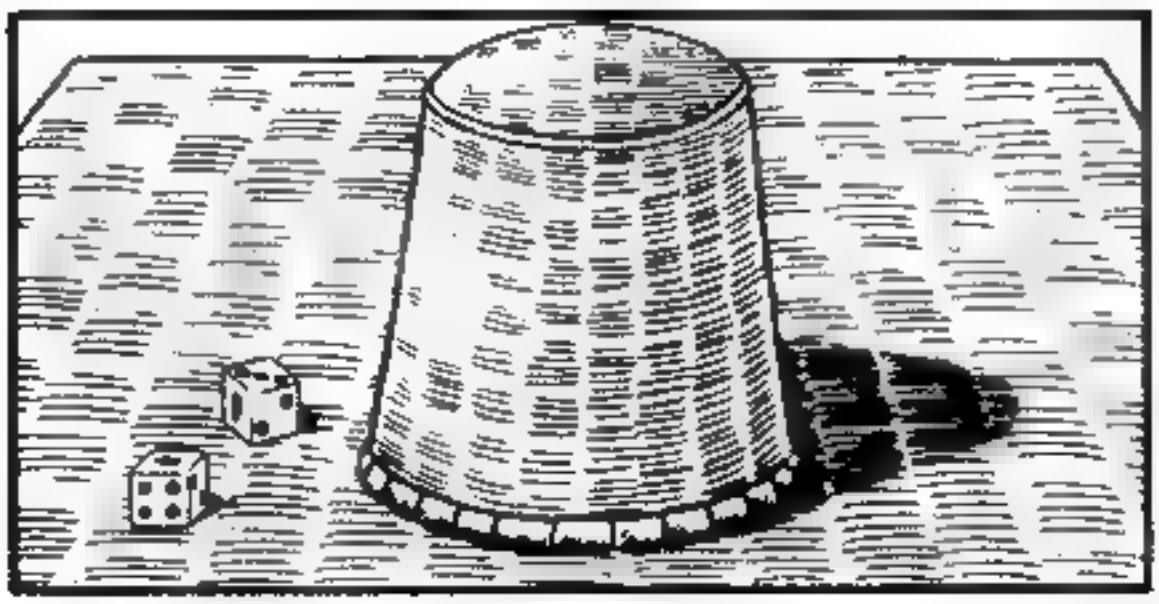
WIN OR LOSE, REAL FIGHTING LEADS TO PAIN AND SUFFERING.

WELL, OOKAMA

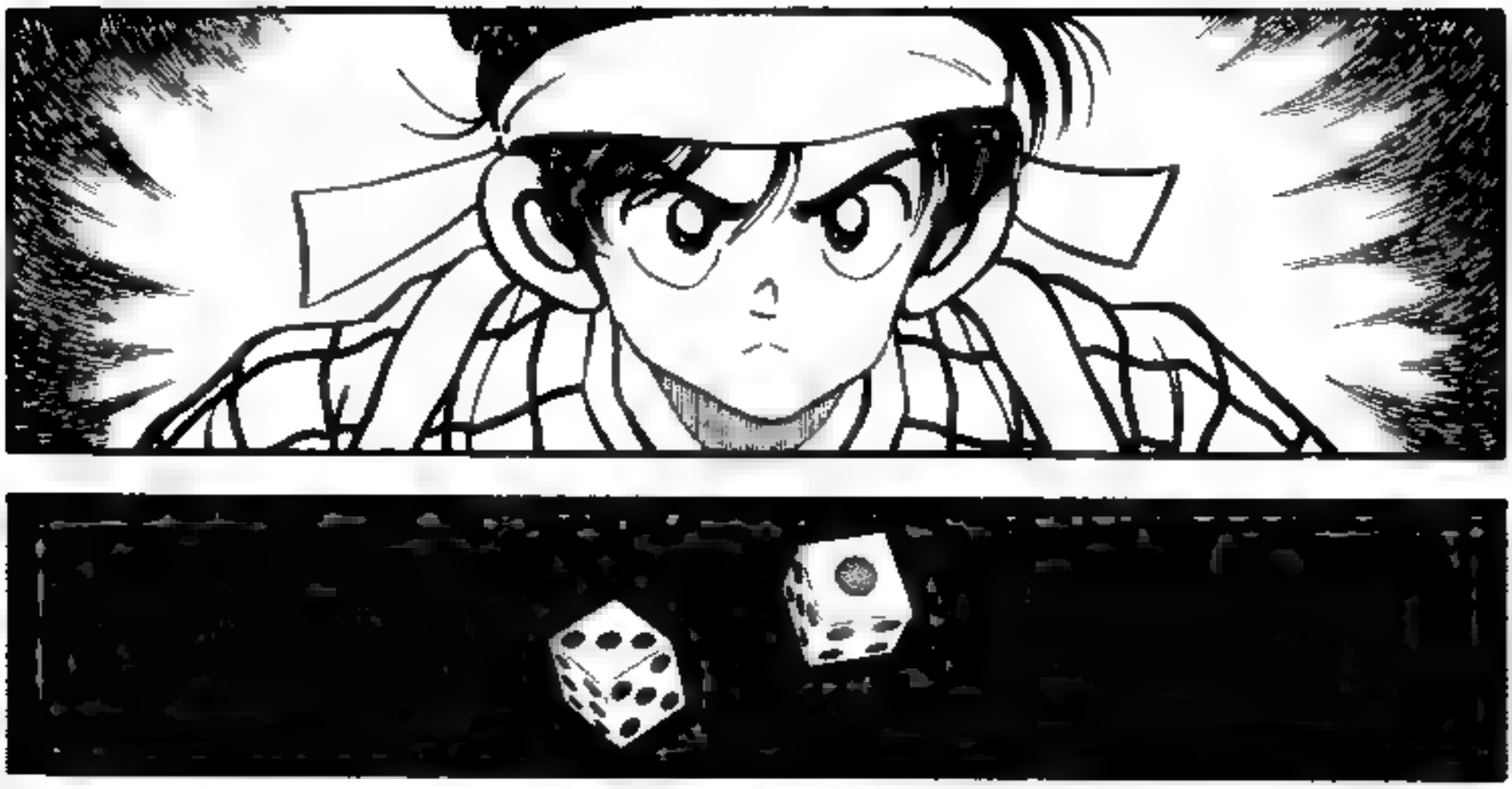

大駒
大駒
BEST OF ONE ROUND WINS.
PUT YOUR BLOODSTAMP ON THIS CONTRACT.

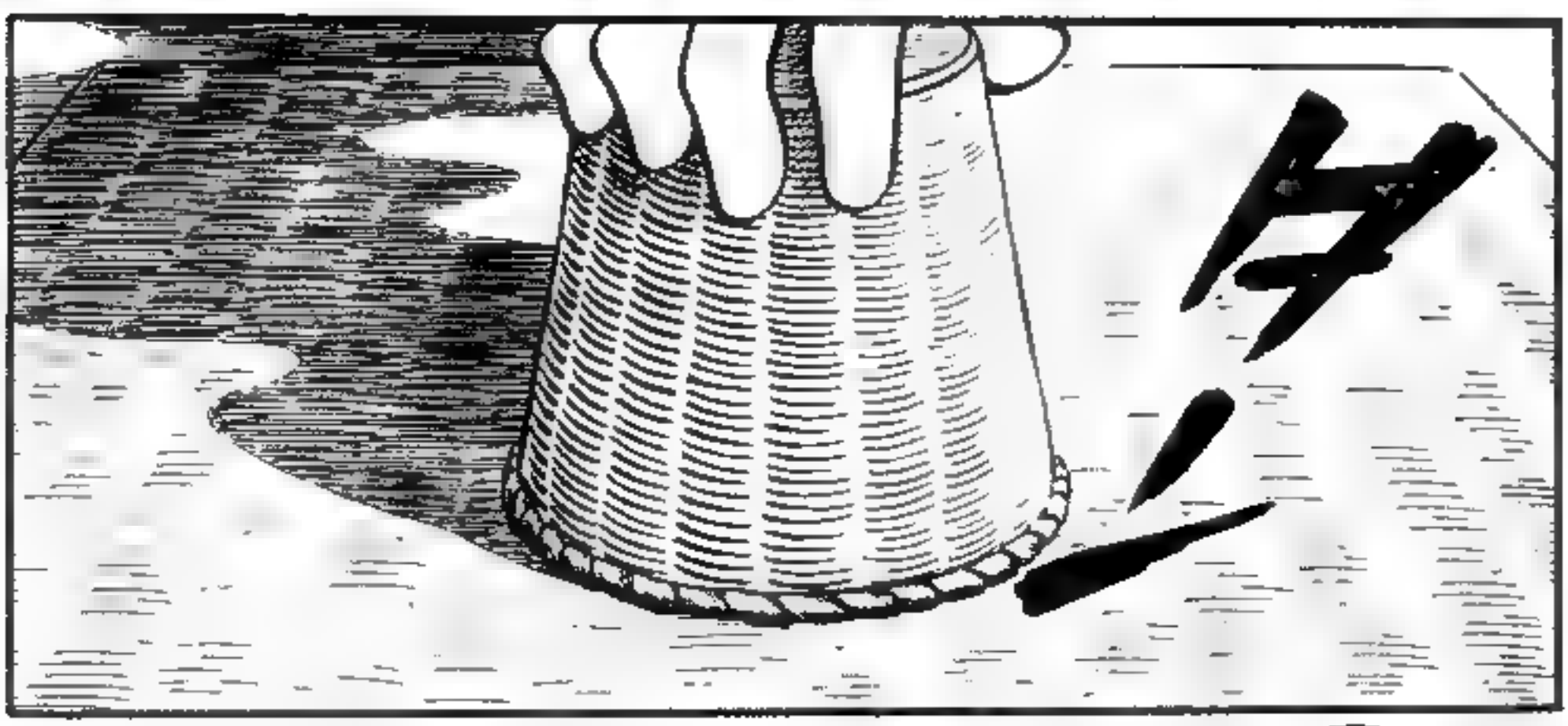
I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD.

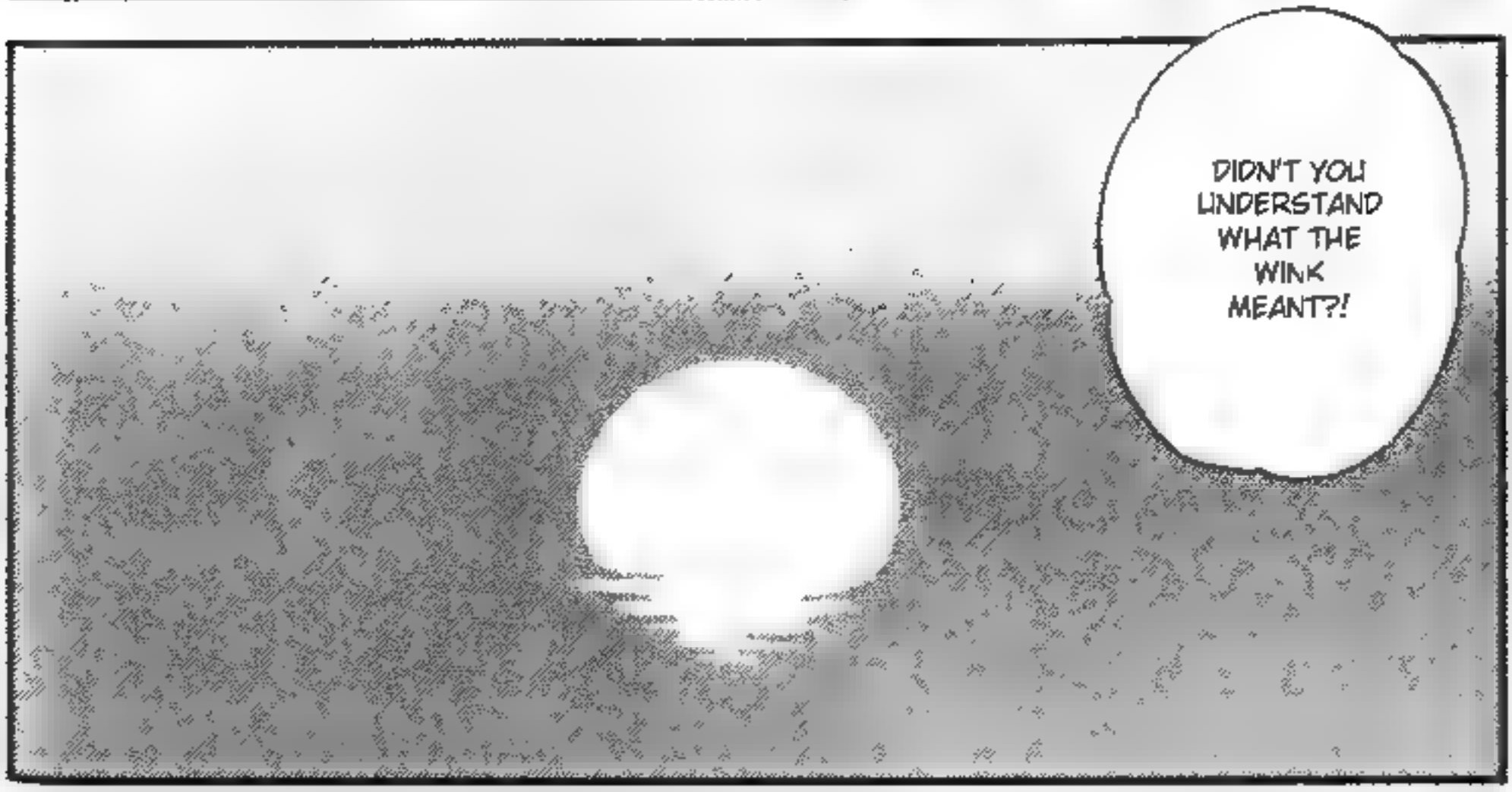
SURE. IT'S FINE BY ME.
THE LOSER CLOSES DOWN HIS CASINO PERMANENTLY.
AGREED?
狂文



GOT IT?
CHOUJIROU ...
THIS ROLL IS VITAL TO OUR FAMILY. IT'S UP TO YOU.






DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WINK MEANT?!

ABOUT WHAT YOU DID, ...I GUESS I AM PROUD OF YOU.

I THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.

THEIR DICE WERE LOADED, SO...

I SUPPOSE ...

TRUE HONOR.

PLAY DICE WITH ME, EH? THAT'S CERTAIN DEATH.

HAHAHAW!

IDIOTS!

THIS PAIR IS GUARANTEED TO SHOW UP EVEN, EVERY TIME.

WELL, IN ANY CASE, THE OOKAMA CASINO'S THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN TOWN NOW.

ALRIGHT! MEN, PREPARE THE FESTIVITIES!

YOW!

OUR FAKE DICE ARE STILL IN THE BOX!

Joss

UH? FUNNY...

IMBECILE! DO YOU KNOW HOW CLOSE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN?

大酒

EH?

WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

THE KOIDE HOUSEHOLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HAVEN FOR YOUNG MEN.

NO LONGER A "FAMILY", THE CASINO SIGN WAS TAKEN OFF.

IN KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES, THEY OPENED A TALENT DISPATCHING CORPORATION...

*SFX: HUBBUB HUBBUB

EVEN THEY DIDN'T EXPECT THE CITY-LIKE THRONGS ON OPENING DAY.

ON THE OTHER HAND ...

FIVE DAYS • A WEEK •

BUSINESS

SECURITY •

...OOKAMA, USED TO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OTHERS, FOUND HIS UNDERLINGS DISAPPEARING ONE BY ONE.

*SIGN: HELP WANTED

ALL AGES, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
--
OOKAMA

NOT EVEN A THRUSH

HEY!

SHUT UP!

MY FORTY RYOU
--
!

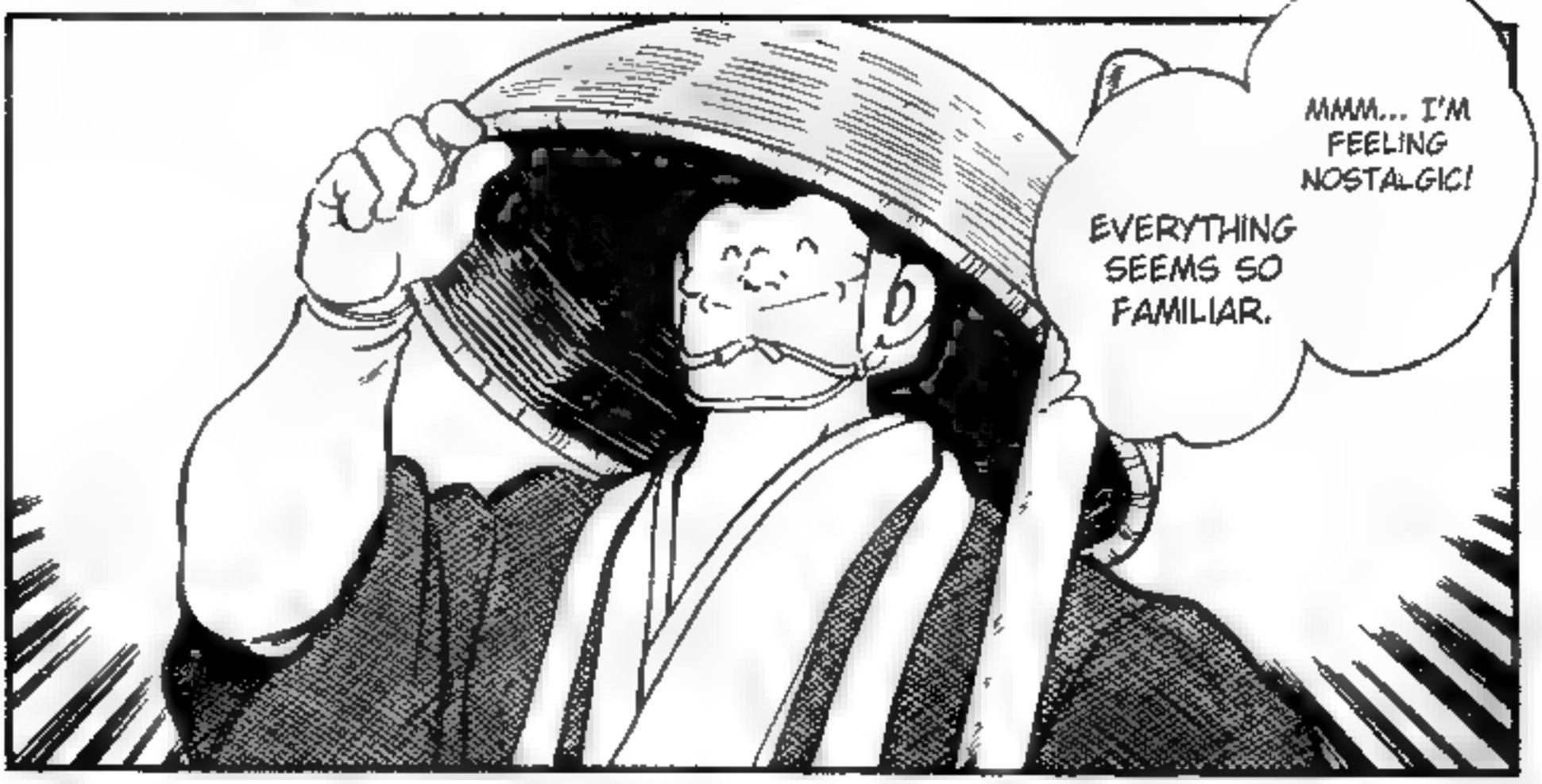
芥子和尚回到故鄉の巻

KESHI THE MONK COMES HOME

IN THE CASTLE TOWN...

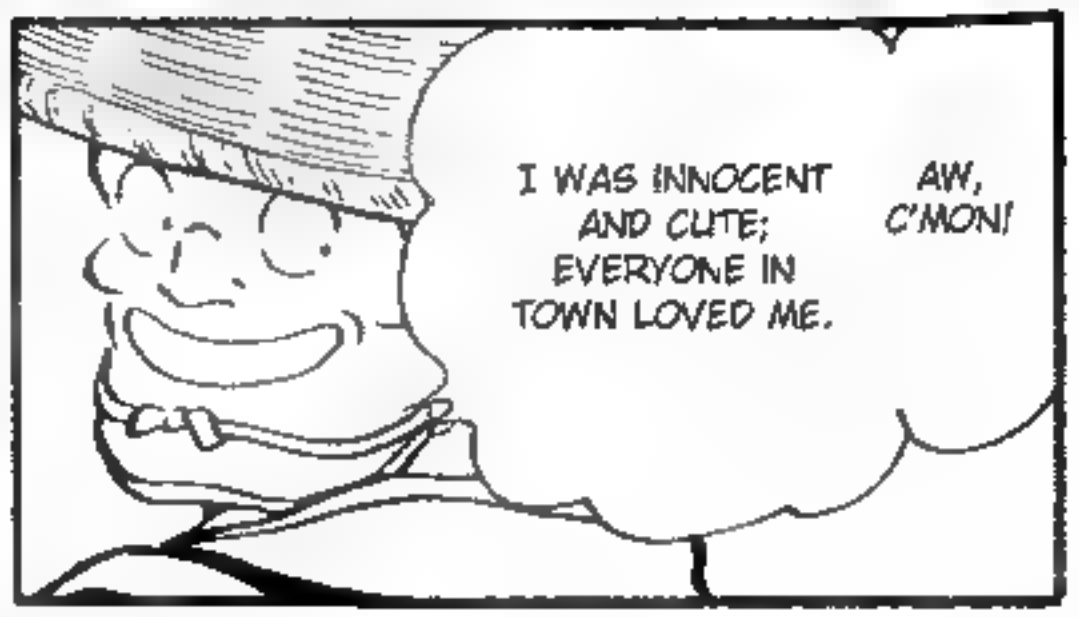
THIS IS HIS BIRTHPLACE.

KESHI LOST HIS MOTHER WHEN HE WAS SIX. FOR THREE YEARS, HE GREW UP IN THE LOCAL TEMPLE.


MMM... I'M FEELING NOSTALGIC!
EVERYTHING SEEMS SO FAMILIAR.

I'M STARVING! CAN WE FIND A RESTAURANT ?
FOOD
OKAY, OKAY!
BUT NO PICKING OUT THE EXPENSIVE STUFF THIS TIME!

BETTER NOT. YOU'LL WARP YOUR BRAIN.
I WONDER WHAT KESHI-N'SAN WAS LIKE AS A BOY?


I WAS INNOCENT AND CUTE; EVERYONE IN TOWN LOVED ME.
AW, C'MON!

WE'LL BE ... QUITE WELCOME THERE. BET THEY'LL EVEN LET US EAT FOR FREE!
UP THERE IS A RESTAURANT OWNED BY A FRIEND OF MINE.
IN THIS TOWN? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THERE.

THIS IS IT.

*SIGN: FOOD

めし

REMEMBER? IT'S ME!

KIN-CHAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!

HEY!

カタ

閉店

*SIGN: CLOSED

OH, NO! KESHI!

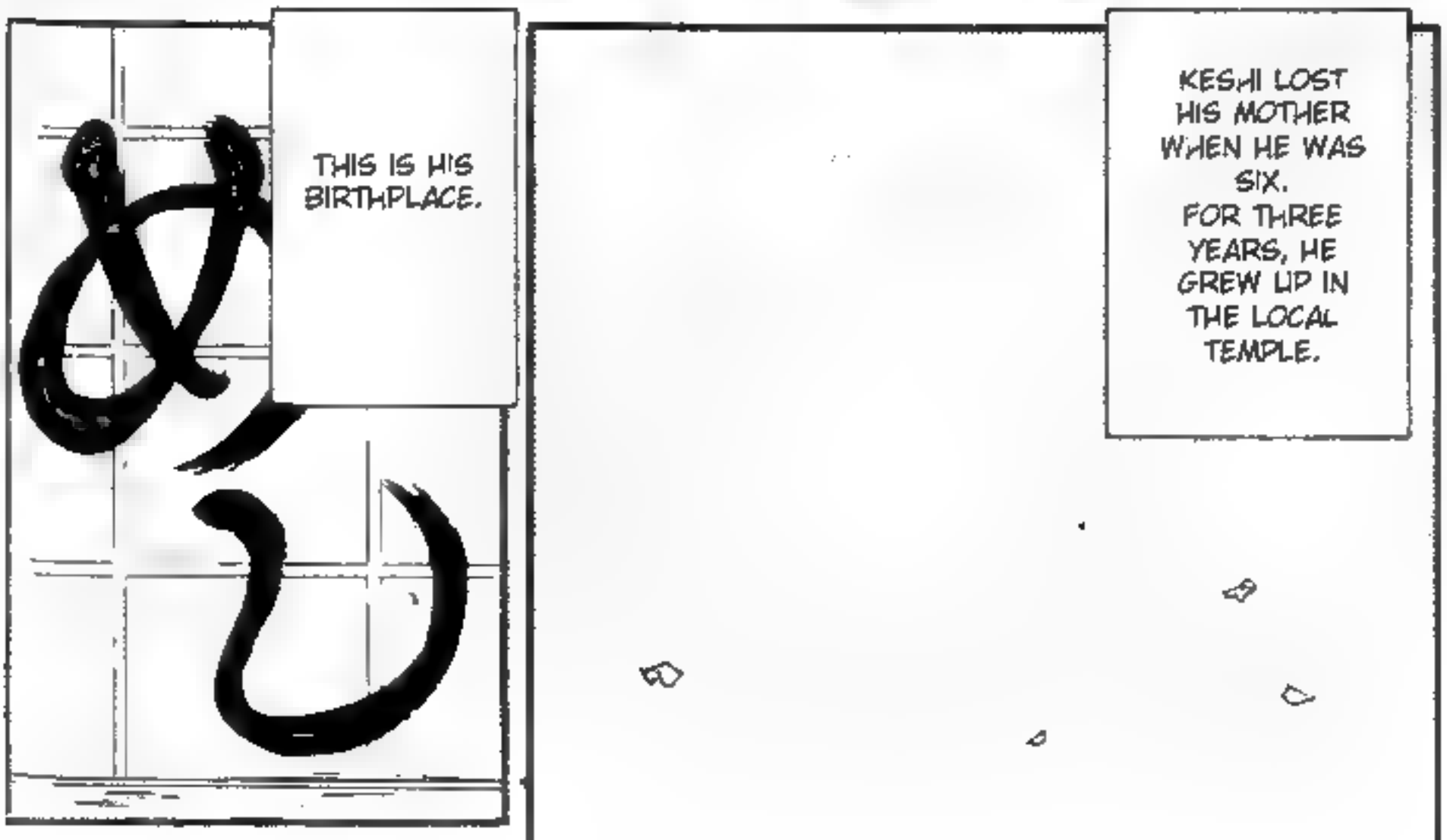
KESHI THE MONK IS BACK!

WAH!

WAH!

WAH!

YEAH, REALLY!
"QUITE WELCOME," EH?


THIS IS HIS BIRTHPLACE.
KESHI LOST HIS MOTHER WHEN HE WAS SIX. FOR THREE YEARS, HE GREW UP IN THE LOCAL TEMPLE.

SO WHY AM I IN THIS GET-UP, AGAIN?

YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL WHY!

YOUR POPULARITY IS FRIGHTENING!

ONCE YOU SHOW YOUR IDENTITY, ALL THE STORES CLAM UP.

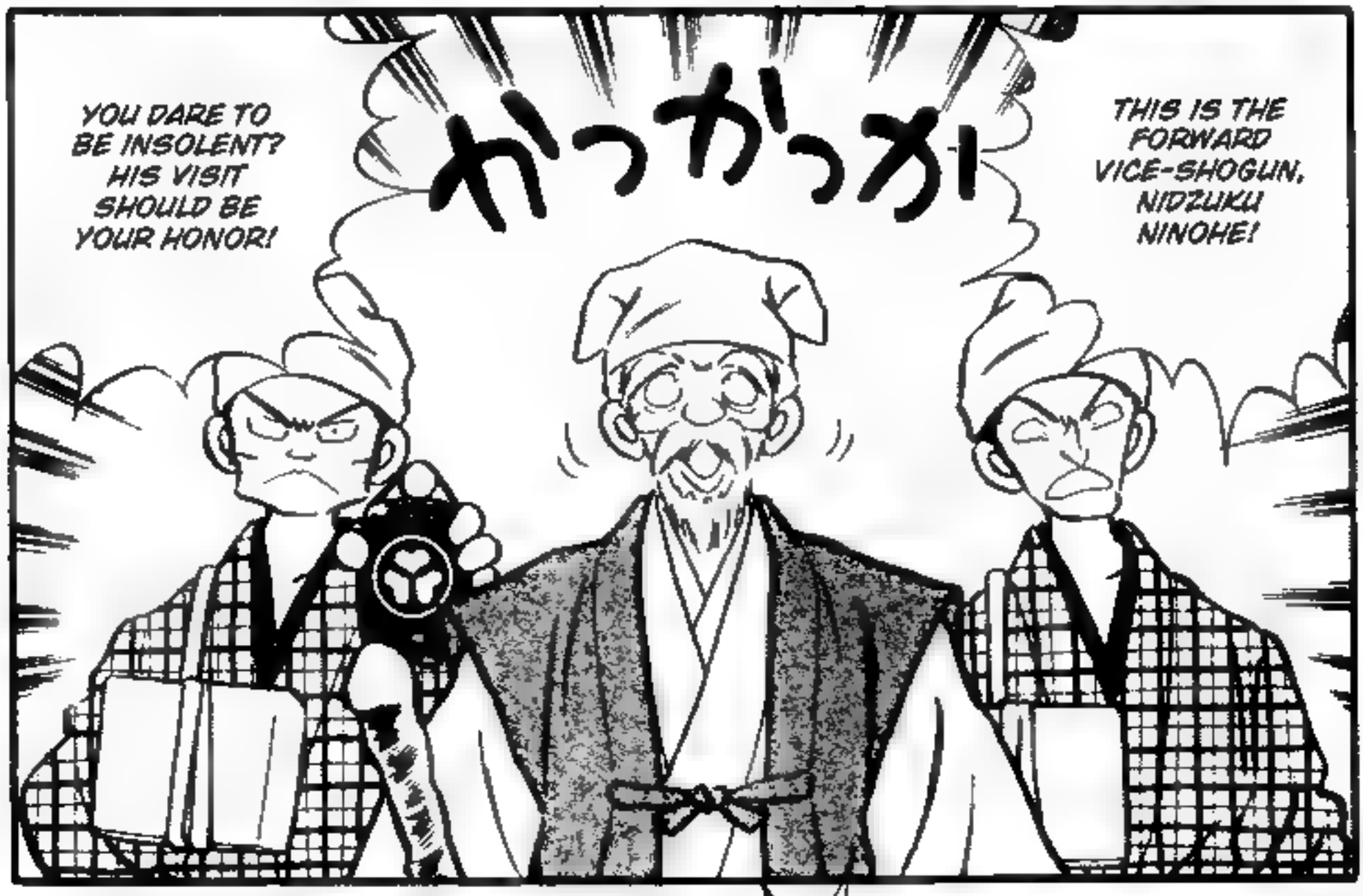
WHAT?

YOU DARE?

BEHOLD!

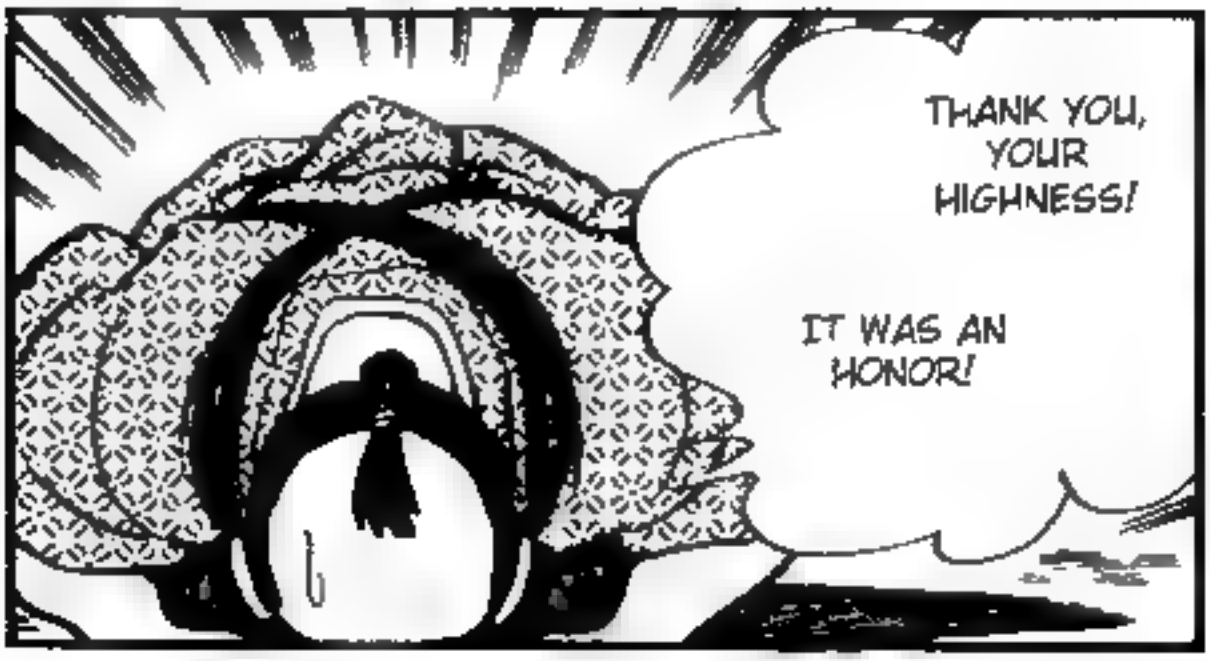
HEY! YOU HAVEN'T PAID, SIRS!

WE HAVEN'T EVEN EATEN!


かっかっか!
YOU DARE TO BE INSOLENT? HIS VISIT SHOULD BE YOUR HONOR!
THIS IS THE FORWARD VICE-SHOGUN, NIDZUKU NINOHE!

かっかっか!
HAHA...NO NEED TO BOW DOWN...
Y... YES, SIR!

虹色辣椒❺

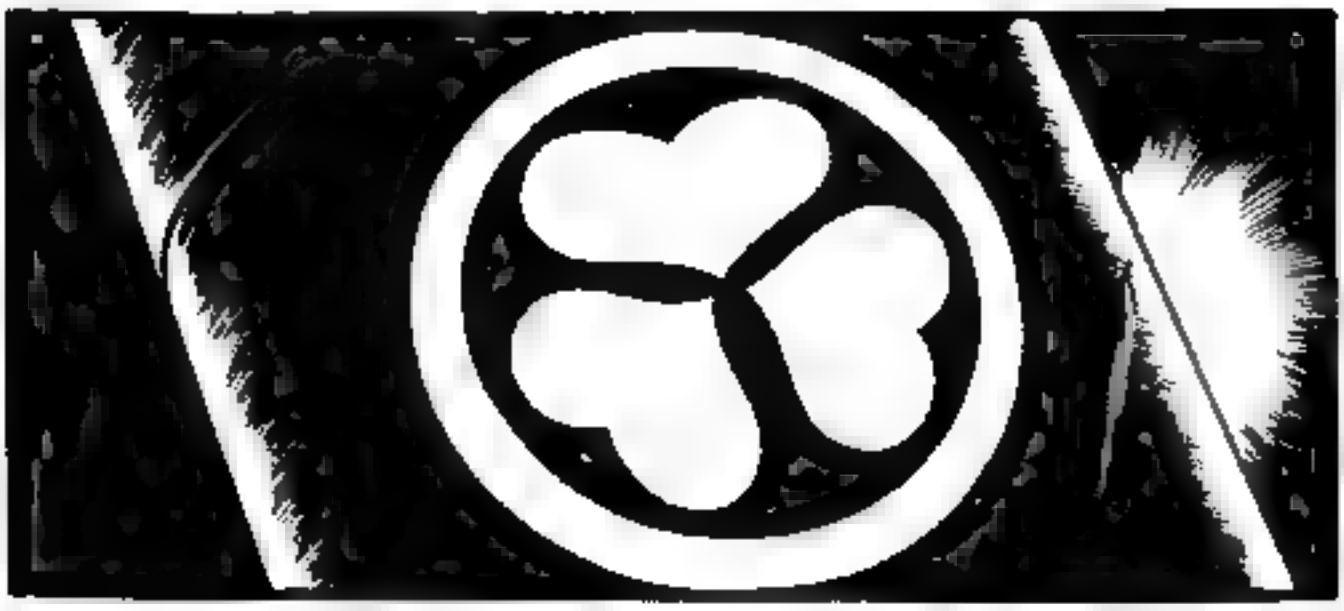

THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!
IT WAS AN HONOR!

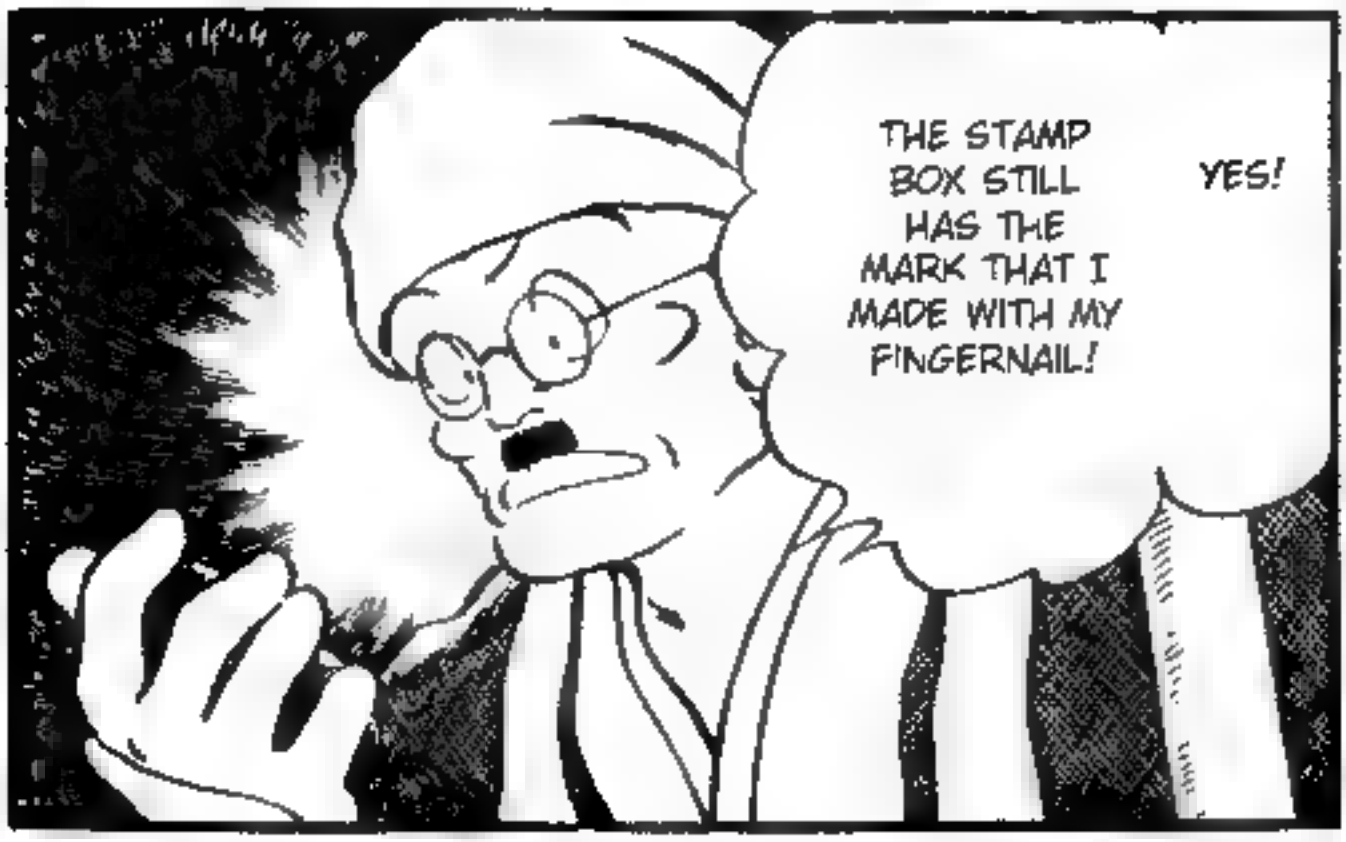
I, THE VICE-SHOGUN, WAS SUITABLY SATISFIED WITH THE MEAL.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, YOU FOOD WAS QUITE DELECTABLE.

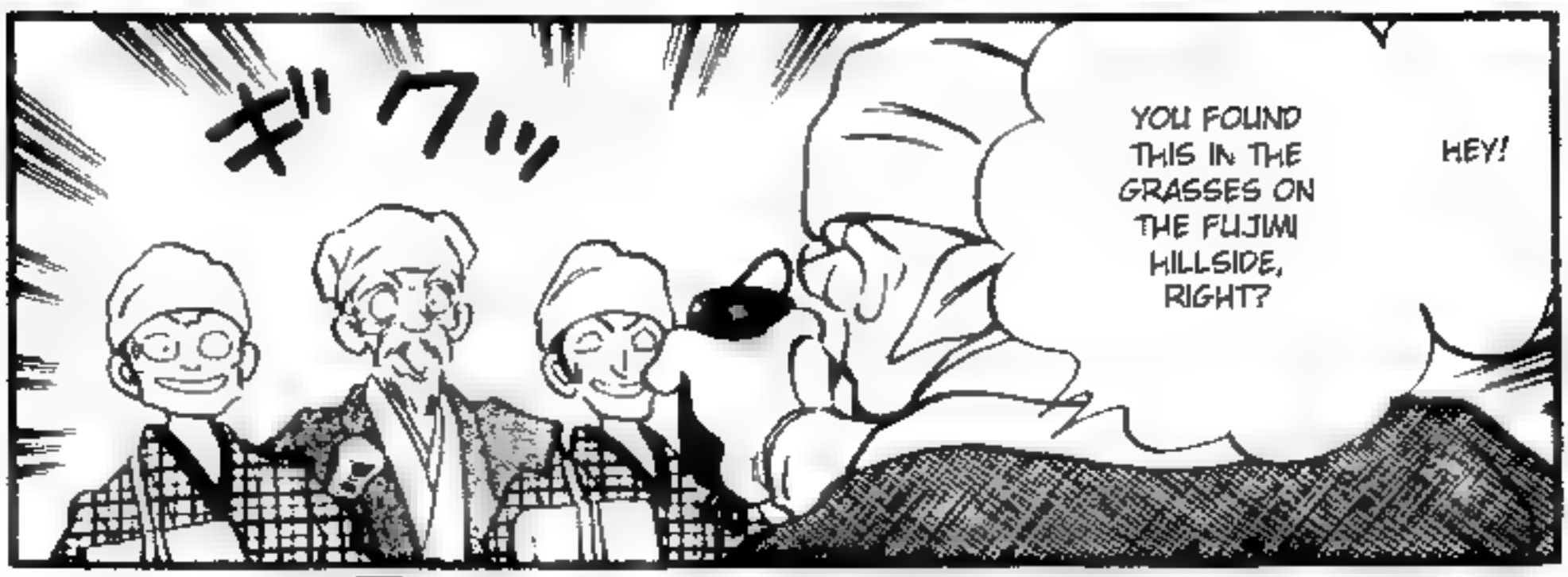
LET'S GO.
OF COURSE.

...IT'S FROM WAY BACK WHEN...

THIS STAMP BOX...



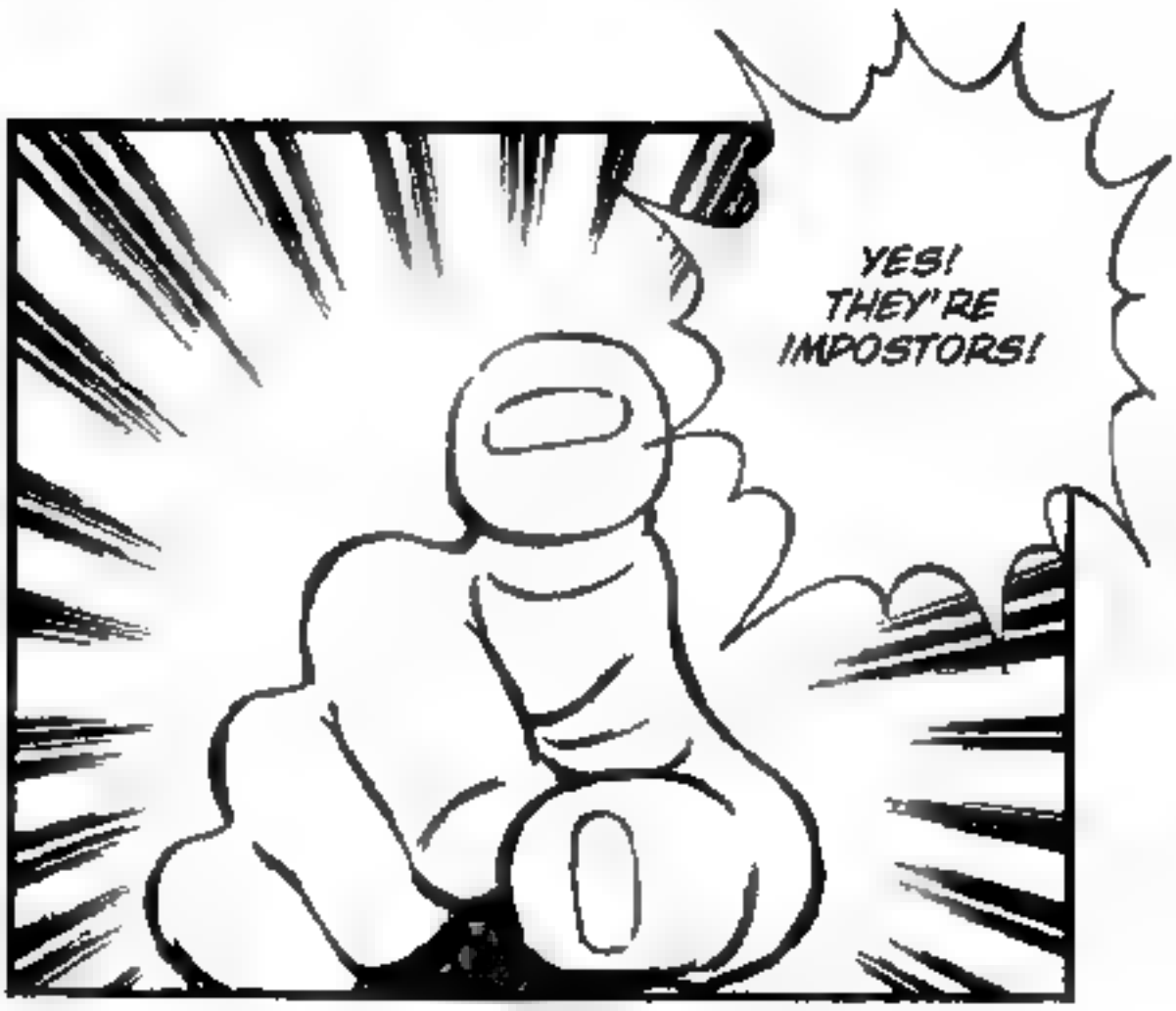

THE STAMP BOX STILL HAS THE MARK THAT I MADE WITH MY FINGERNAIL!
YES!

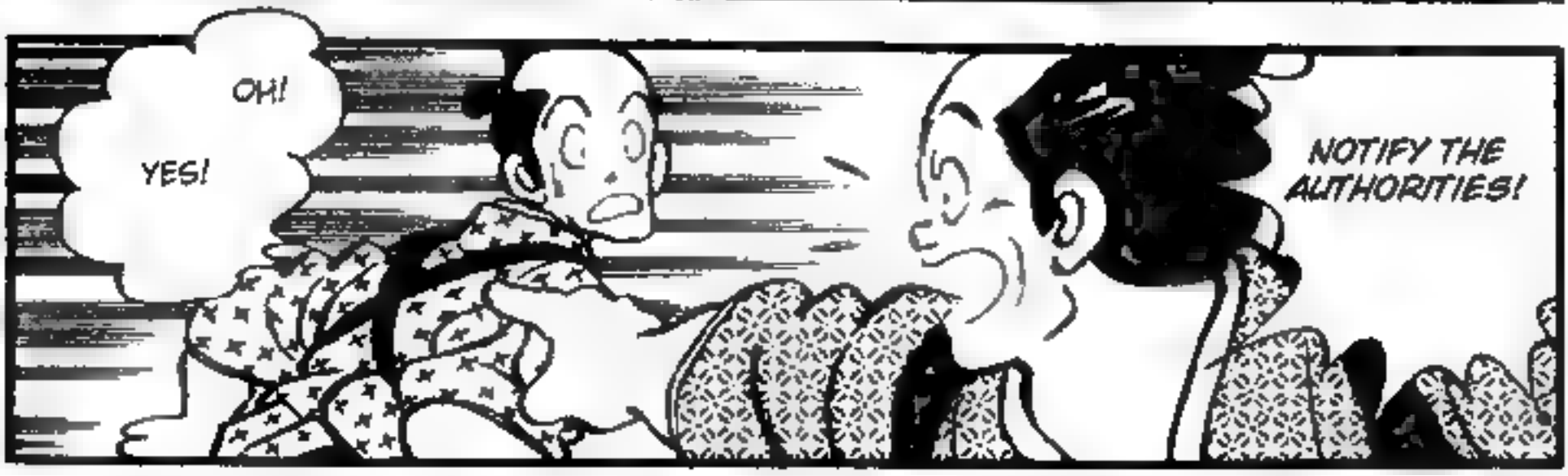

ギクッ!!
YOU FOUND THIS IN THE GRASSES ON THE FUJIMI HILLSIDE, RIGHT?
HEY!

...AND WE THREW IT AWAY!
SOME WEIRD OLD MAN GAVE US THIS STAMP BOX

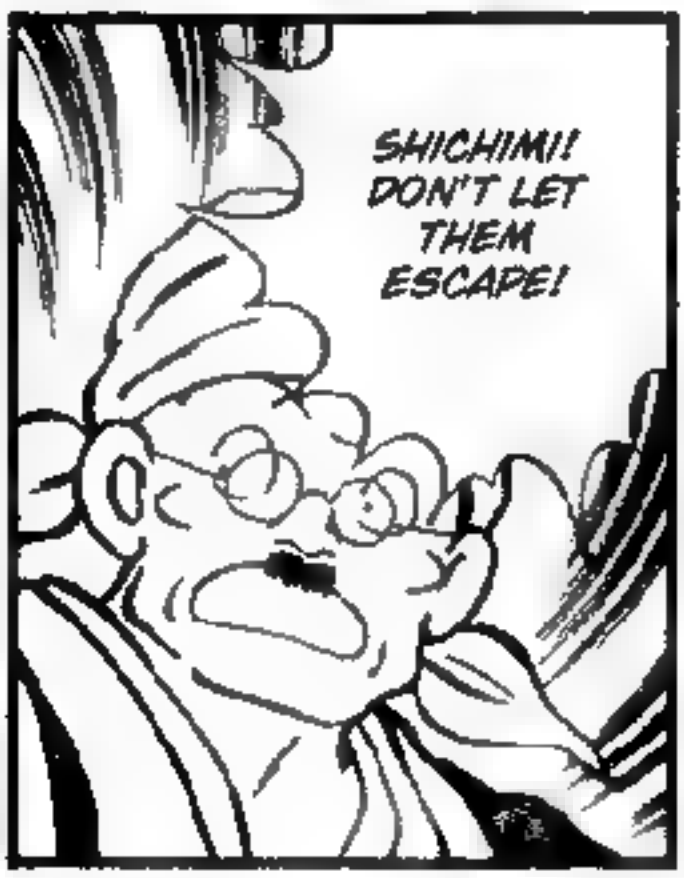
OH?
THESE THREE ARE FAKES!
DON'T BE FOOLED, MISTER!

ガラ


YES! THEY'RE IMPOSTORS!

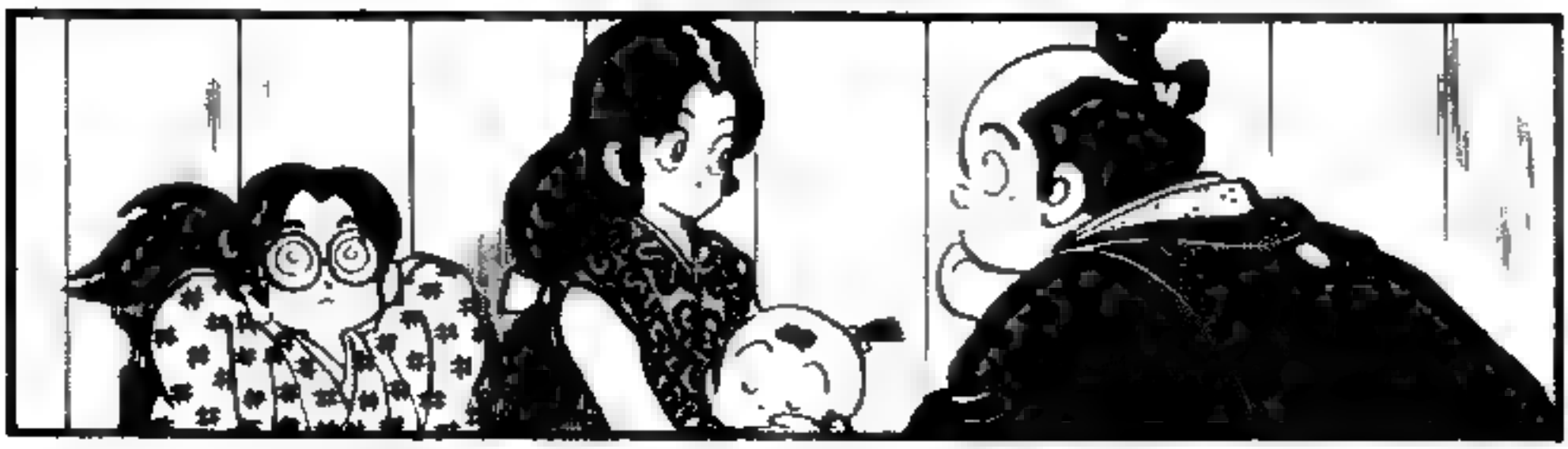

OH!
YES!
NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES!

HALT!


SHICHIMI! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

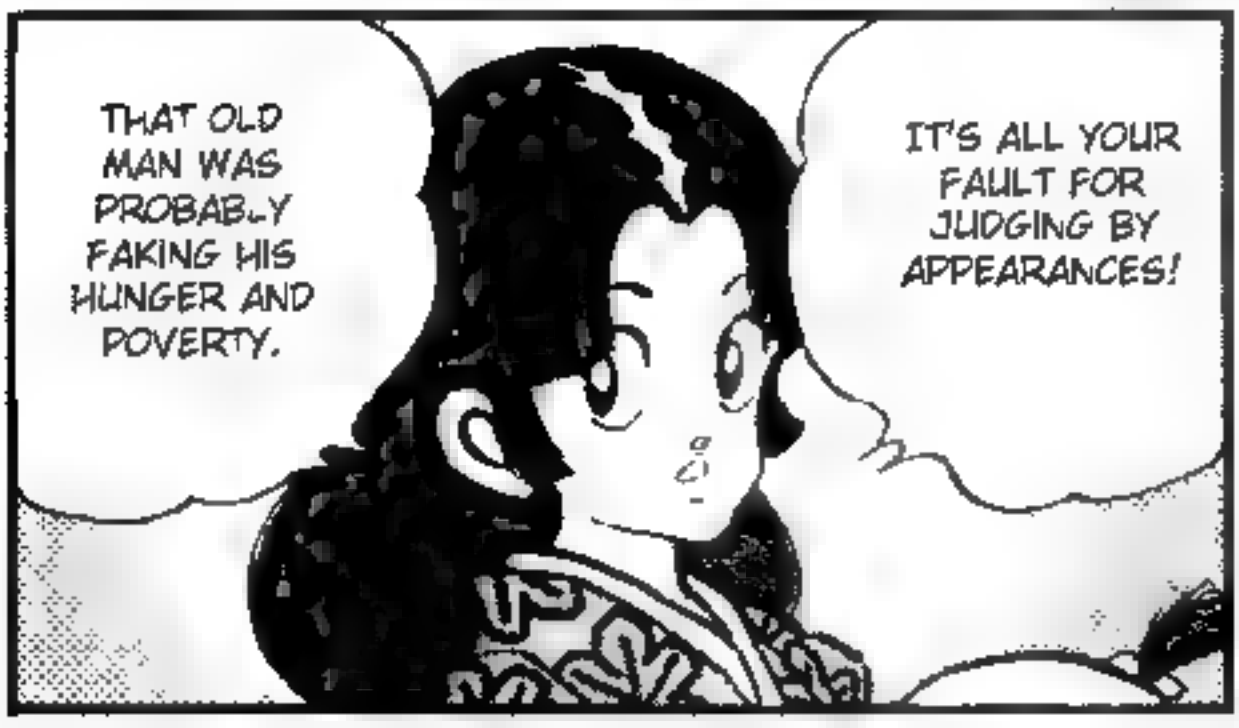
虹色辣椒 ⑤

.....



BUT, I WAS SURE THAT WAS THE EXACT SAME STAMP THAT IMPOVERISHED OLD MAN GAVE US!

THE AUTHORITIES SAID THAT THE STAMP BOX WAS REAL, LEGITIMATE, AND NOT STOLEN.


THAT OLD MAN WAS PROBABLY FAKING HIS HUNGER AND POVERTY.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR JUDGING BY APPEARANCES!

BOY, YOU REALLY GOT YOURSELVES IN TROUBLE.

IF WE HAD JUST ACCEPTED THE THING GRACE-FULLY, WE'D BE THE ONES WINING AND DINING RIGHT NOW.

SIGH ...

WHAT A SHAME.

GRUM-BLE.

AREN'T YOU TAKEZOU?

IT'S A SERIOUS CRIME TO INSULT THE SHOGUN'S FAMILY.

I'LL TRY TO SEE IF I CAN GET THE PENALTY REDUCED TO JUST EXILE TO A REMOTE ISLAND, BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE.

NORMALLY, THE BEST YOU COULD DO IS GET YOUR HEADS CHOPPED OFF.

IT'S ME!

SEE, IT'S ME, KESHI!

HUH?

LONG TIME NO SEE! I'VE MISSED YOU!

HEY! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

I'LL DO ANY-THING TO MAKE SURE YOU DIE, DIE, DIE!

I'LL GET YOU THE DEATH PENALTY!

AAA ... THE DEATH PENALTY!

.....

TAKEZOU! ...

THIS WAY.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

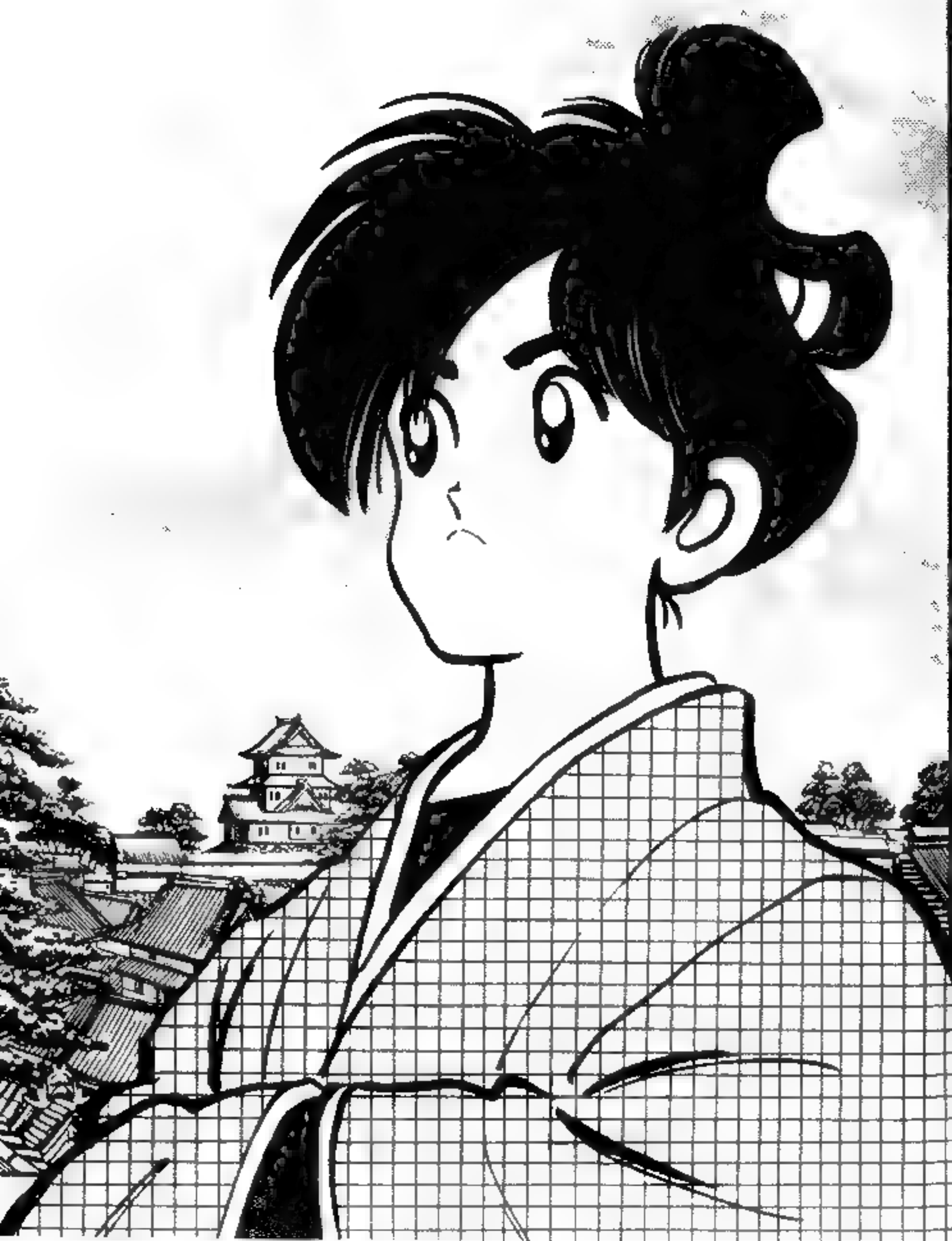
THEM?

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO INSULTED THE SHOGUNATE?

OH?

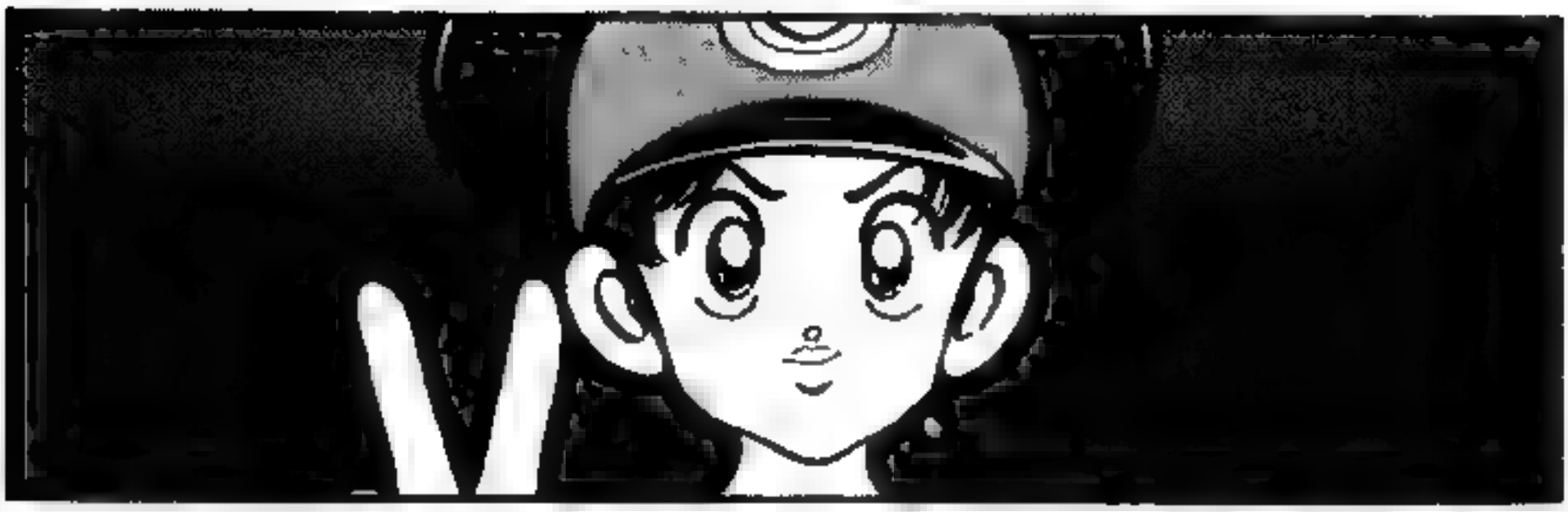
OH!

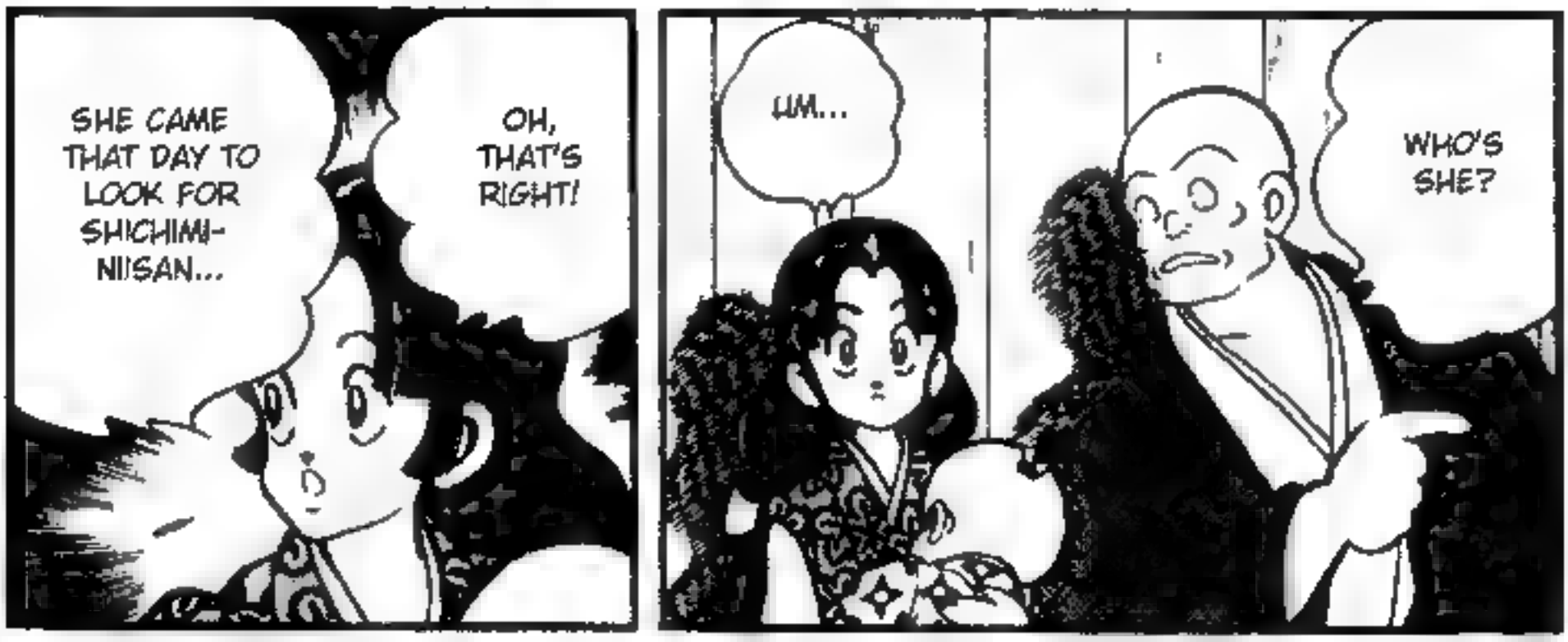
TURN AROUND THREE TIMES AND BARK LIKE A DOG!

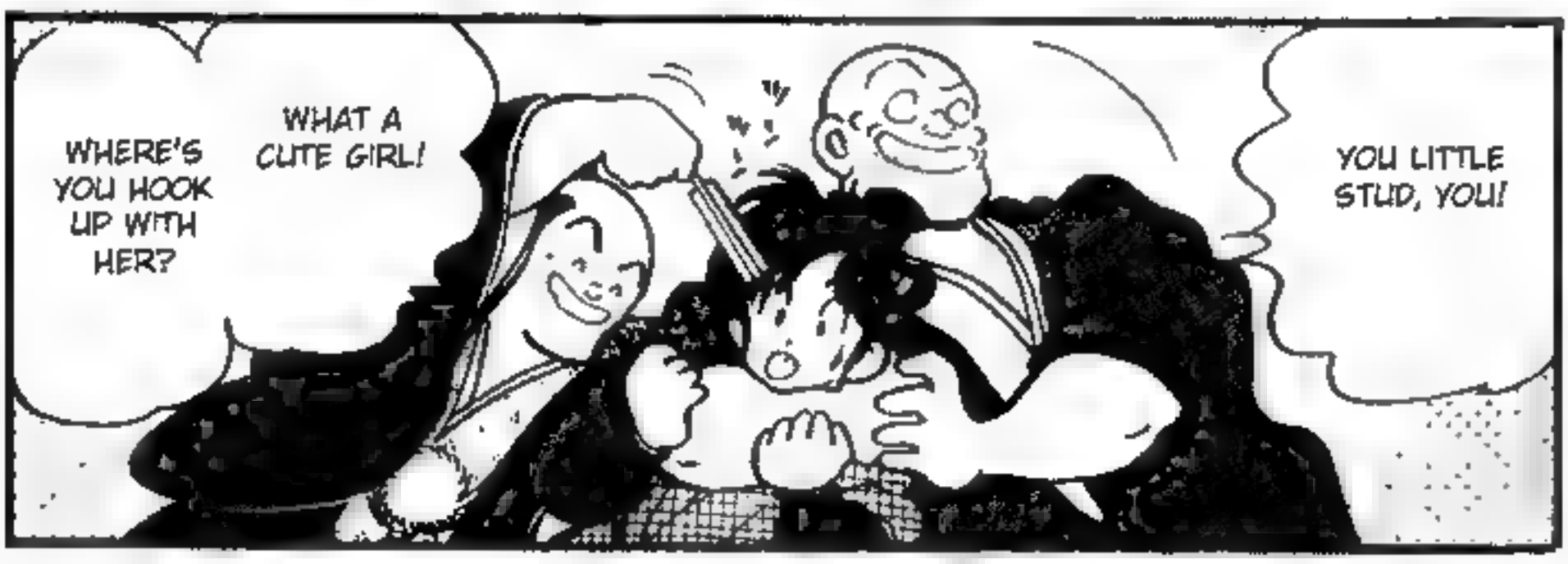


WHAT IS 'WASHING' ?

OH!
YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM...




SHE CAME THAT DAY TO LOOK FOR SHICHIMI-NIISAN...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
UM...
WHO'S SHE?


WHERE'S YOU HOOK UP WITH HER?
WHAT A CUTE GIRL!
YOU LITTLE STUD, YOU!

LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT?

YOU DARE!

かっかっか!

THIS IS PRINCESS KOTO, THE DAUGHTER OF THE EIGHTH SHOGUN AKIMITSU!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TALKING TO?

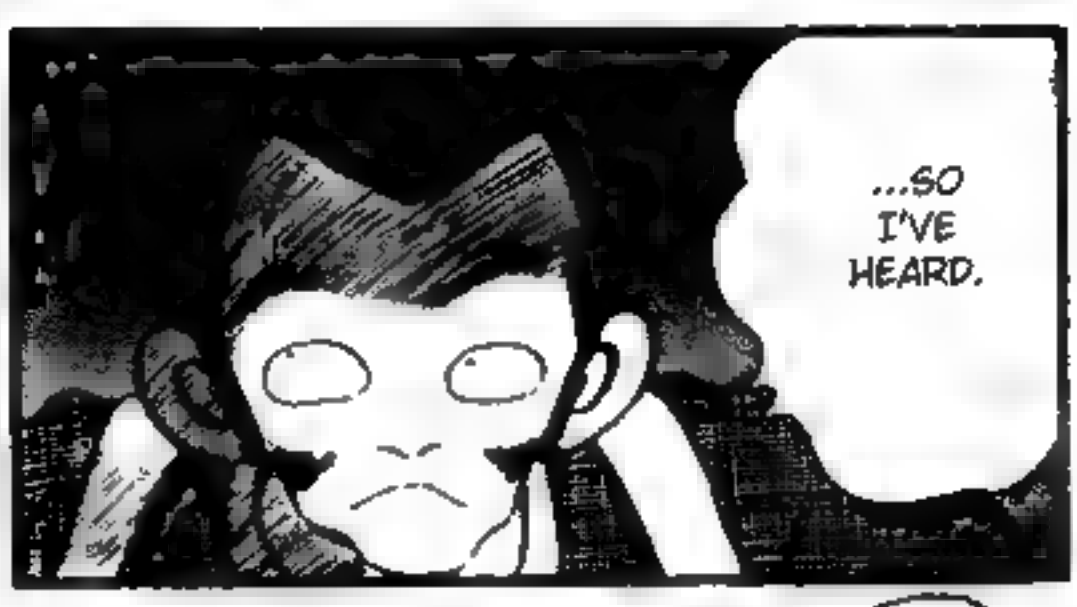
"PRINCESS" ??

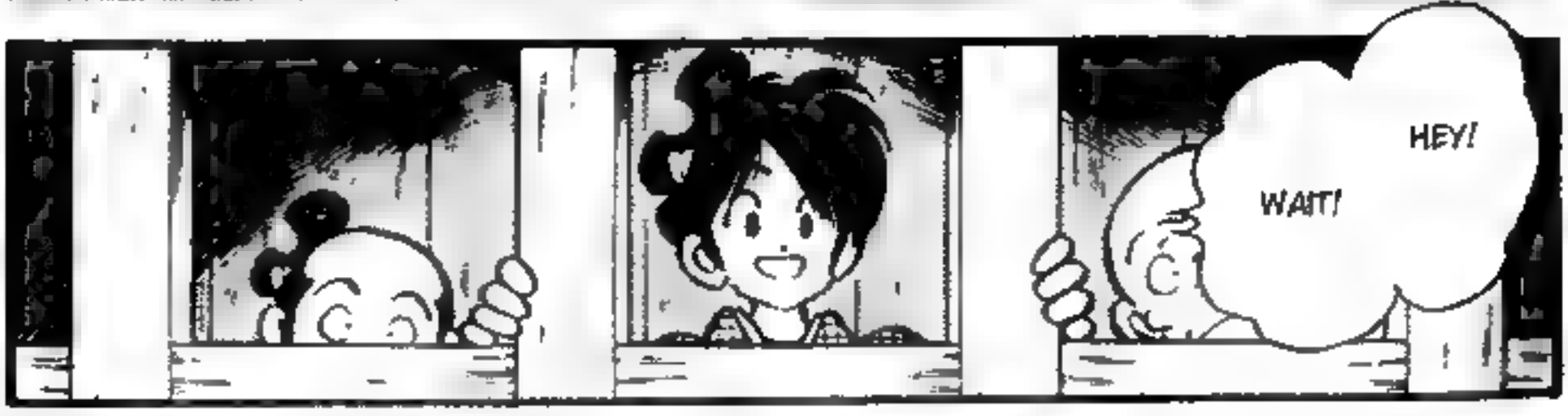
ANOTHER STAMP BOX.

THIS ONE'S REAL, I ASSURE YOU.

THAT'S ...
SUCH A SHAME.

YES!
THEIR EXECUTION IS TOMORROW MORNING?


...SO I'VE HEARD.


HEY!
WAIT!

TURN AROUND THREE TIMES AND BARK LIKE A DOG.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THE RICE AND WINE IS ALSO FAMOUS.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS, THAT IS TRUE.

YAMASHIRO, I HEAR THIS REGION IS FAMOUS FOR CRABS AND SHRIMP, IS THAT RIGHT?

NO?

WHAT A SHAME. AND I WAS GOING TO INVITE YOU TO DINNER, TOO.

*WOOF!

*WOOF!

HEY!

WELL...
EXCEPT HER.
I SUDDENLY HAVE QUITE A HANKERING FOR WINE...
EH...
THE RICE AND WINE IS SAID TO BE THE BEST IN JAPAN!
HEY!
SHE'S NOT ALLOWED TO EAT WITH US.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT, WE WON'T...
HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

HAVE FUN.

I'LL GO TO THE KESHI-NISAN'S TEMPLE.

BYE.

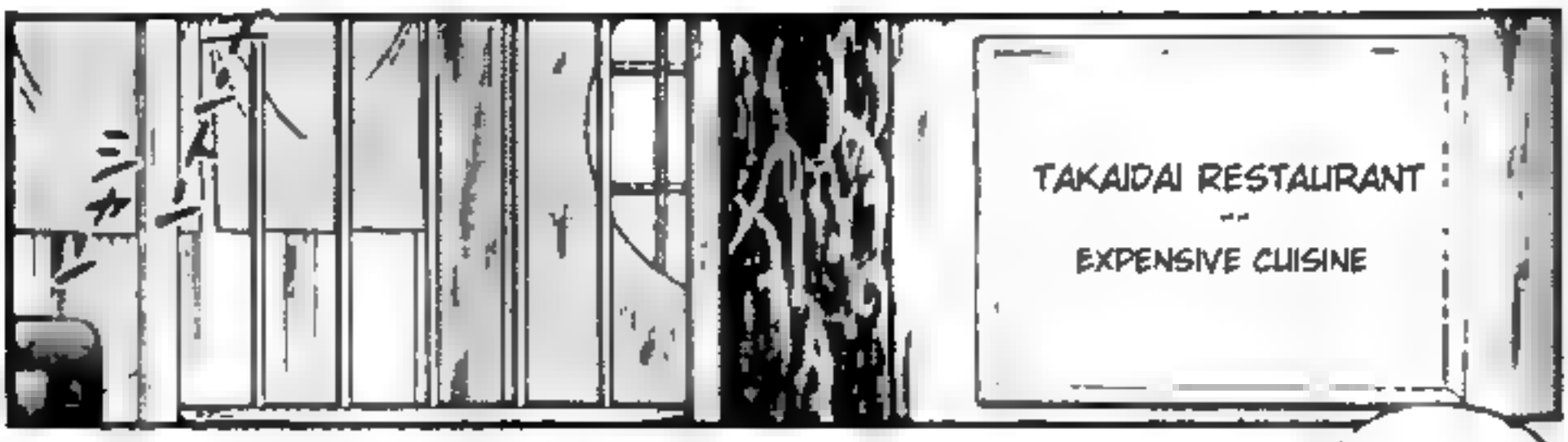
TAKE SANSHOU!

HERE!

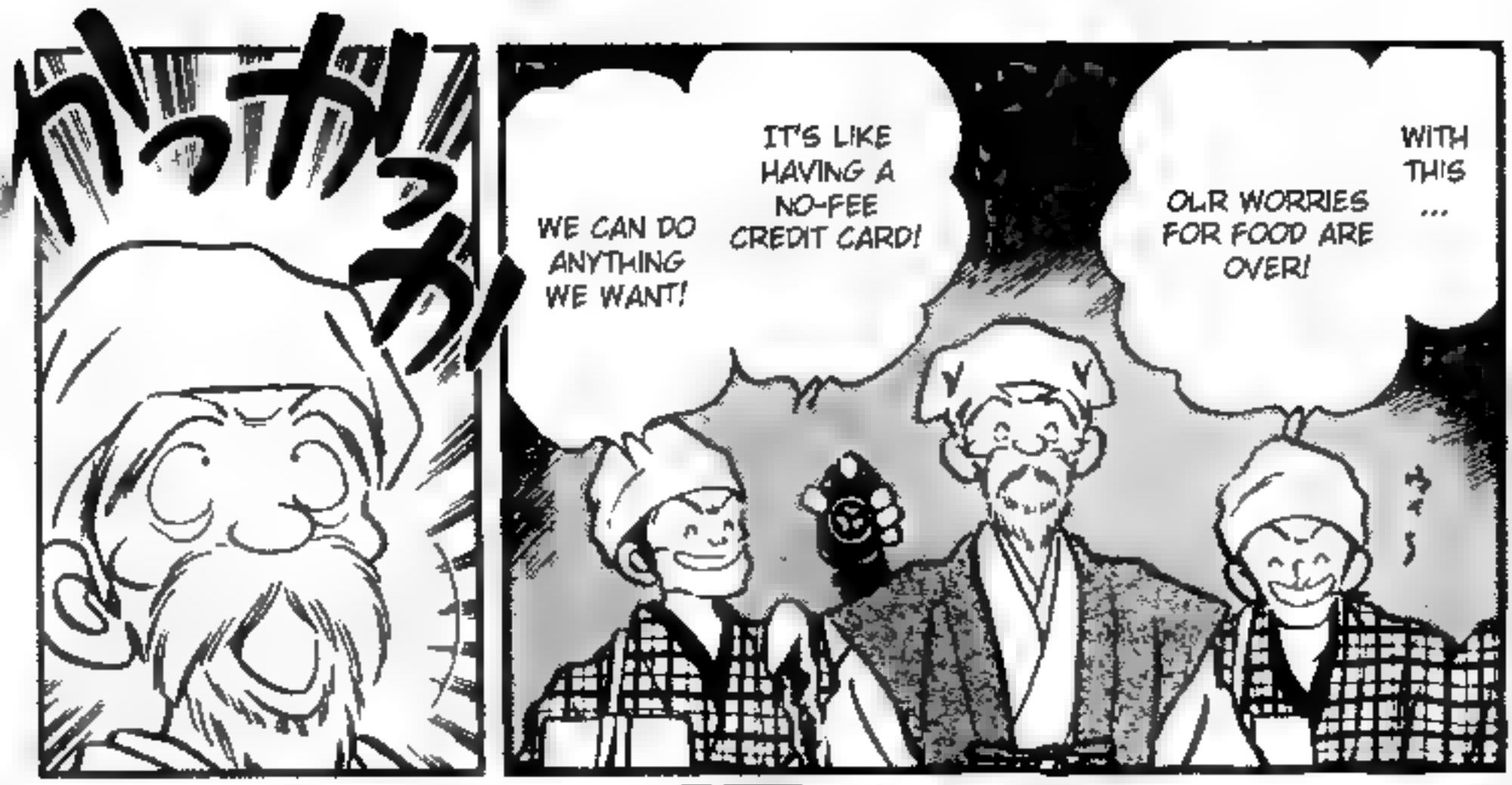
NATANE...

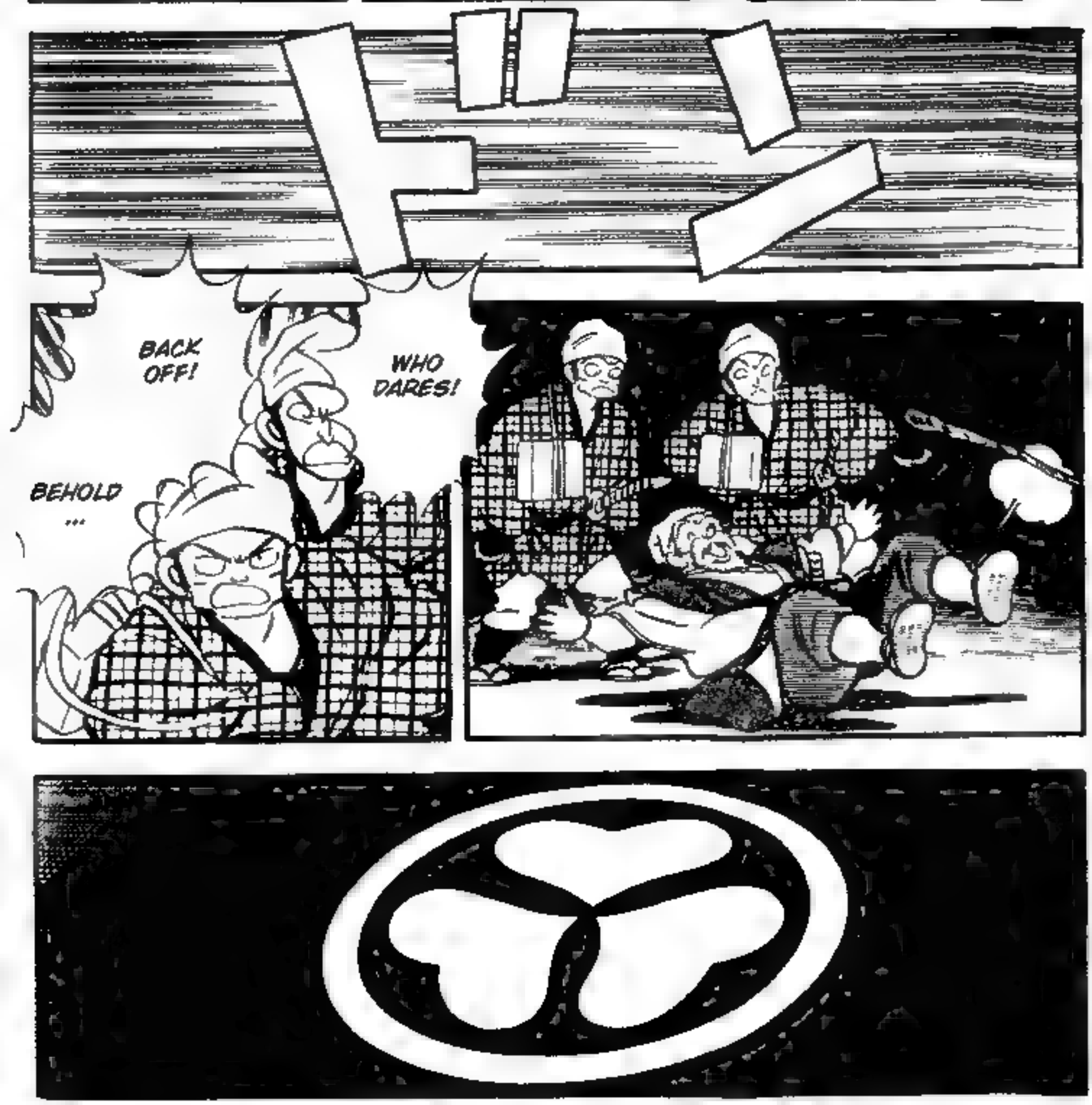
STUPID COMMONER!

C'MON, LET'S GO TO DINNER.

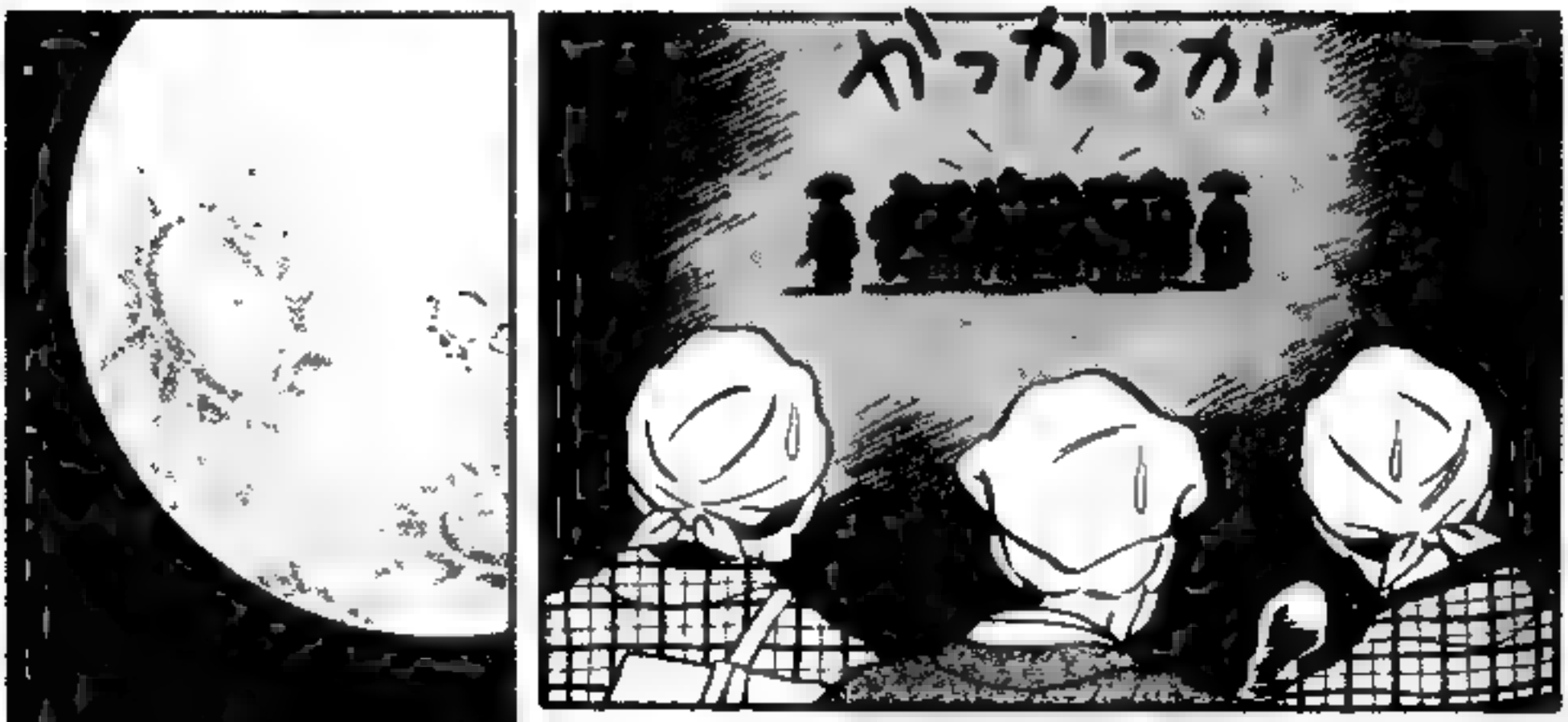

TAKAIDAI RESTAURANT
--
EXPENSIVE CUISINE

かっかっか
THAT WAS GOOD FOOD!
THE VICE-SHOGUN IS VERY PLEASED.
THANK YOU, SIR.
IT IS OUR HONOR.


WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT!
IT'S LIKE HAVING A NO-FEE CREDIT CARD!
OUR WORRIES FOR FOOD ARE OVER!
WITH THIS ...


BACK OFF!
WHO DARES!
BEHOLD ...

ギク
ギク
THE GRASSES ON THE FUJIMI HILLSIDE, RIGHT?
TEE HEE!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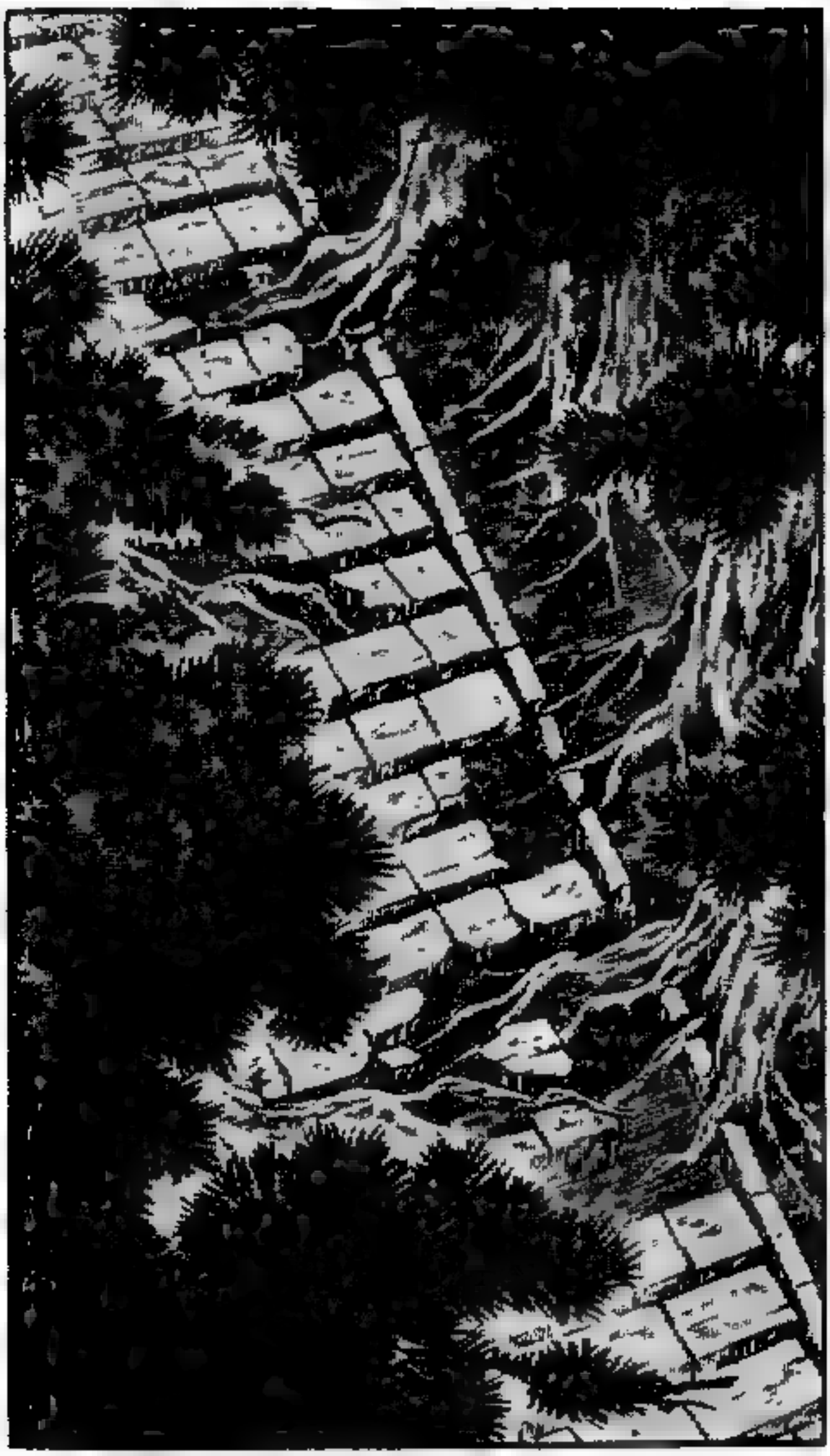


* IMANAMI TEMPLE

今南寺

HMPH!

DAMN HER!

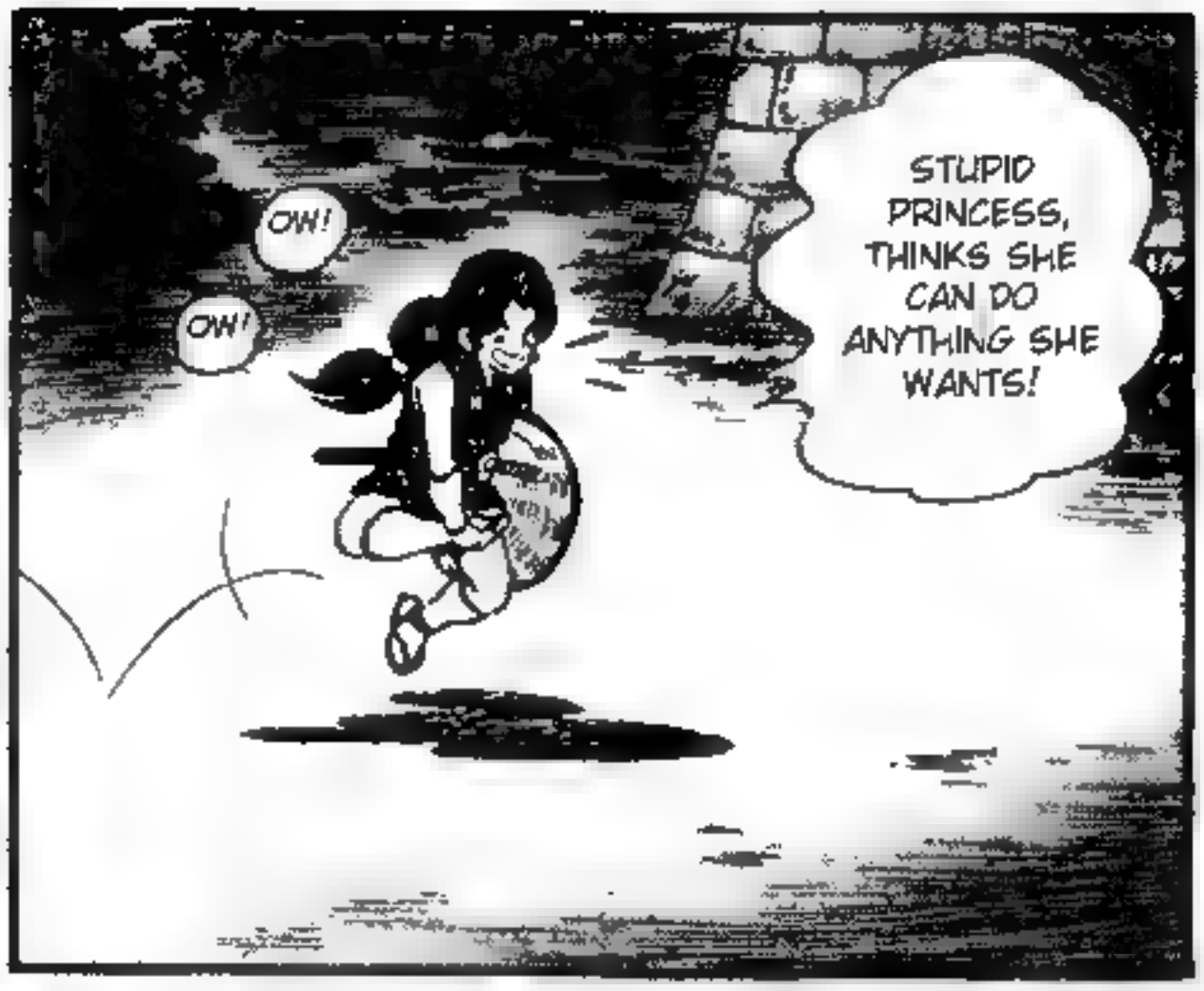
WHAT MOUNTAIN IS THIS?

IMANAMI TEMPLE? LA...

MOUNT NARITA HAS THE SHINKATSU TEMPLE,

MOUNT HIEI HAS THE NOBUREKI TEMPLE,

WHO GOES THERE?


OW!
OW!
STUPID PRINCESS, THINKS SHE CAN DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS!

I WAS QUITE SURPRISED!

WHEN KESHI WROTE THAT HE'D BE COMING BACK, I WAITED WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION.

OH, THANK YOU.

BUT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE KESHI HAVING SUCH A PRETTY LITTLE SISTER.

UM...

OH.

WHERE ARE KESHI AND THE OTHER BROTHERS?

BUT ...

SOMETHING CAME UP, SO I CAME OVER FIRST...

I THINK THEY'LL ALL BE HERE TOMORROW.

I ALMOST FORGOT!

YOU MUST BE STARVING!

SORRY.

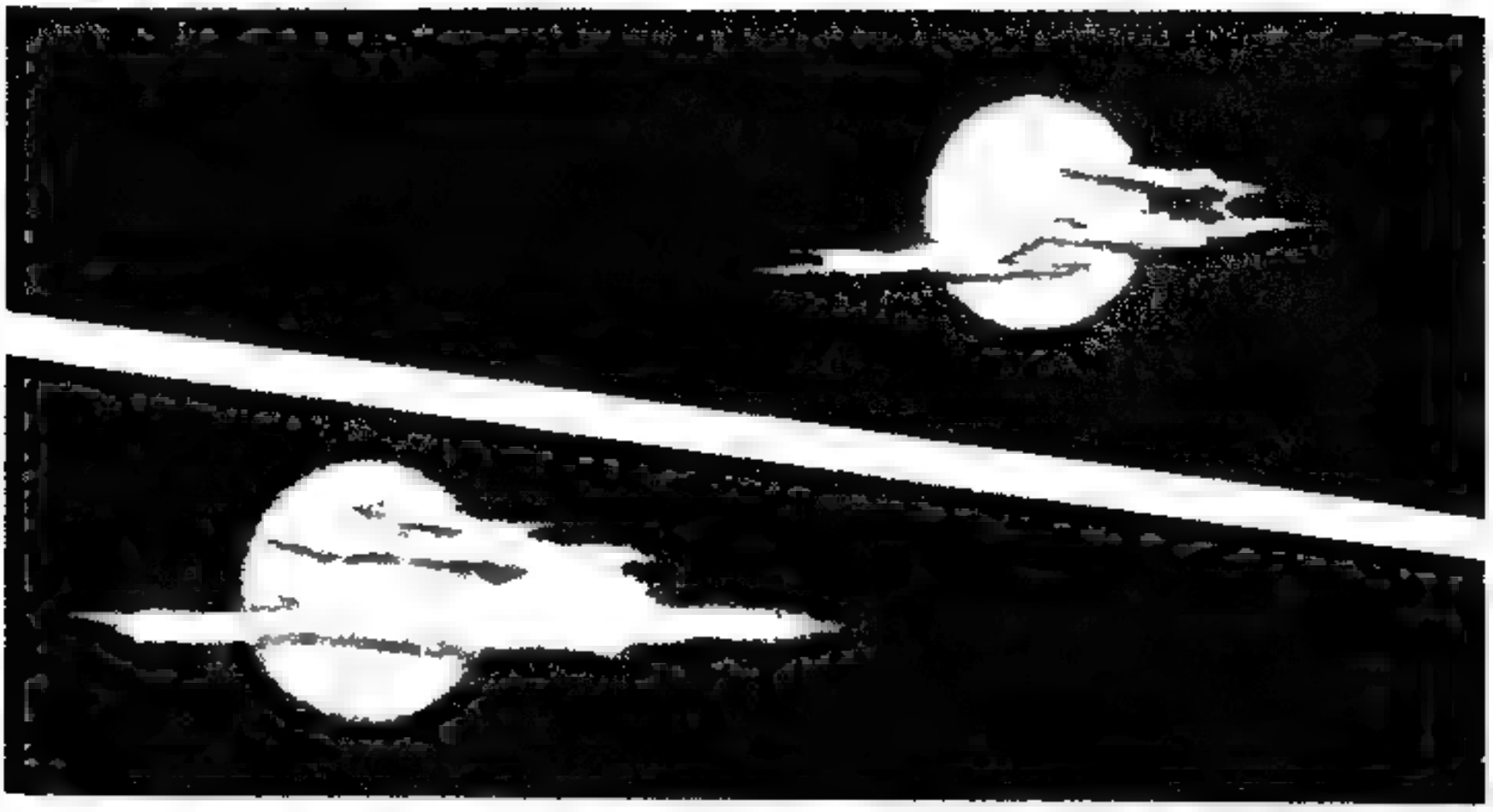
OH!

GRUMBLE...

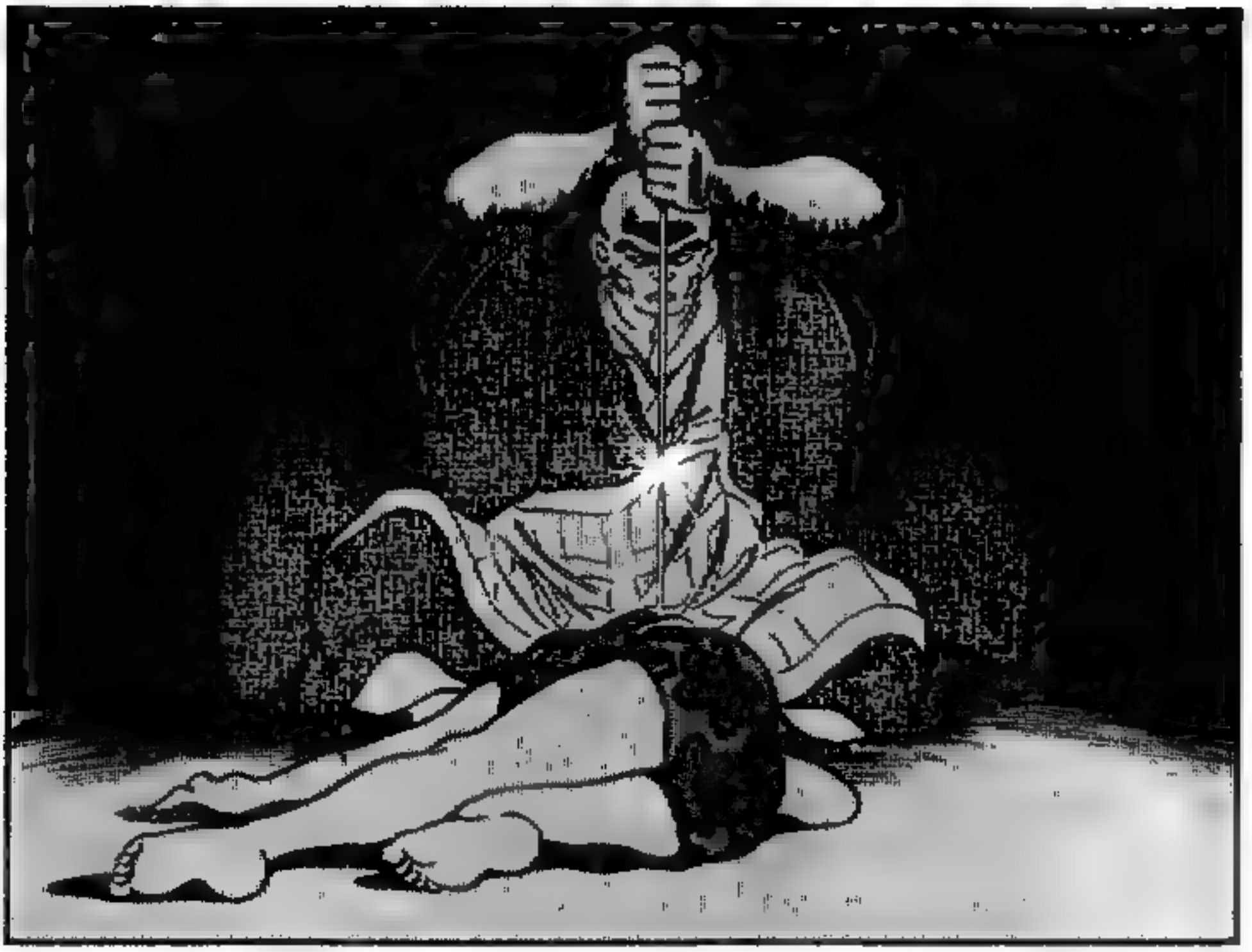
HEH!

THANK YOU.

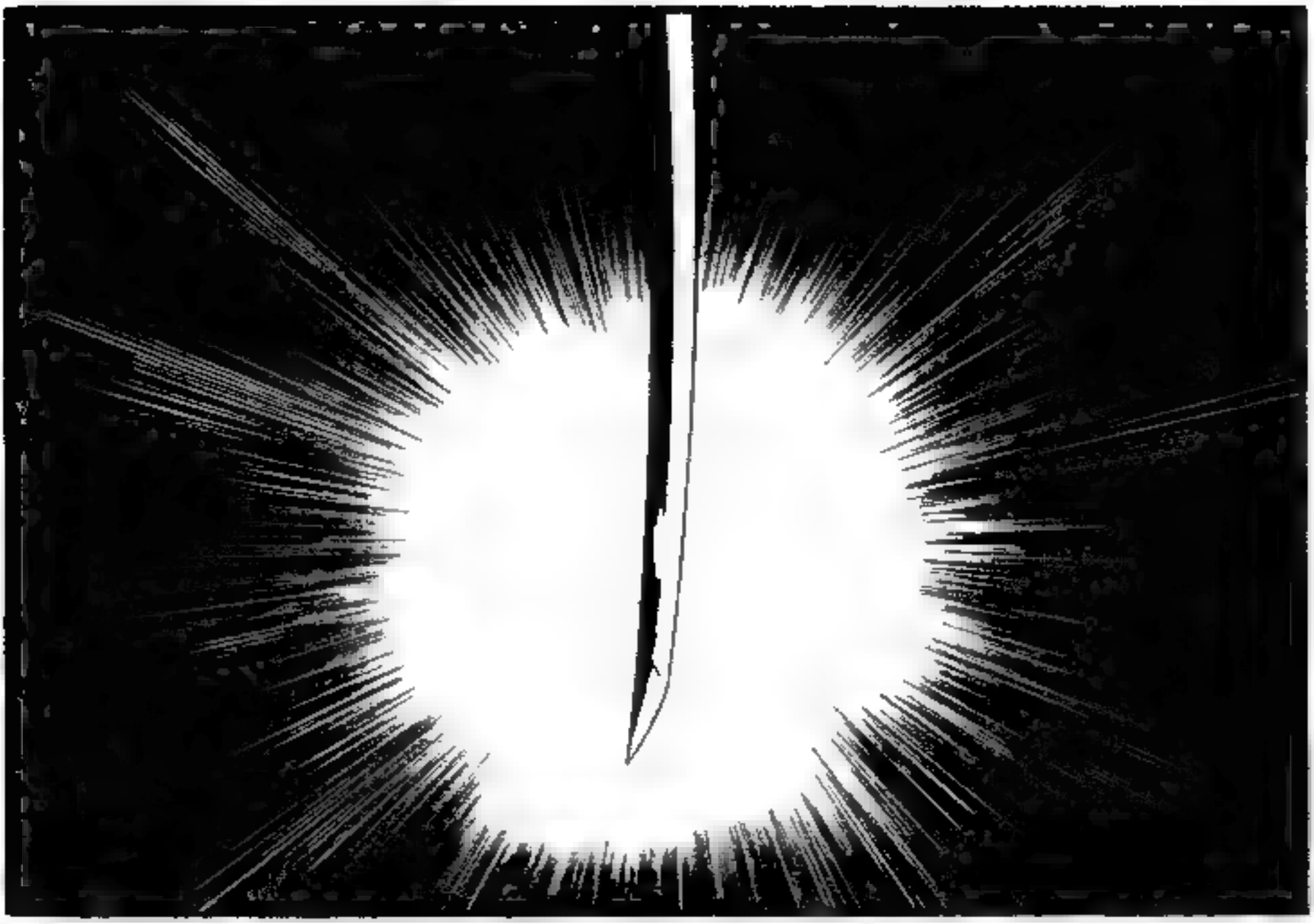
HERE, HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.



NAMUAMI
DABUTSU
...



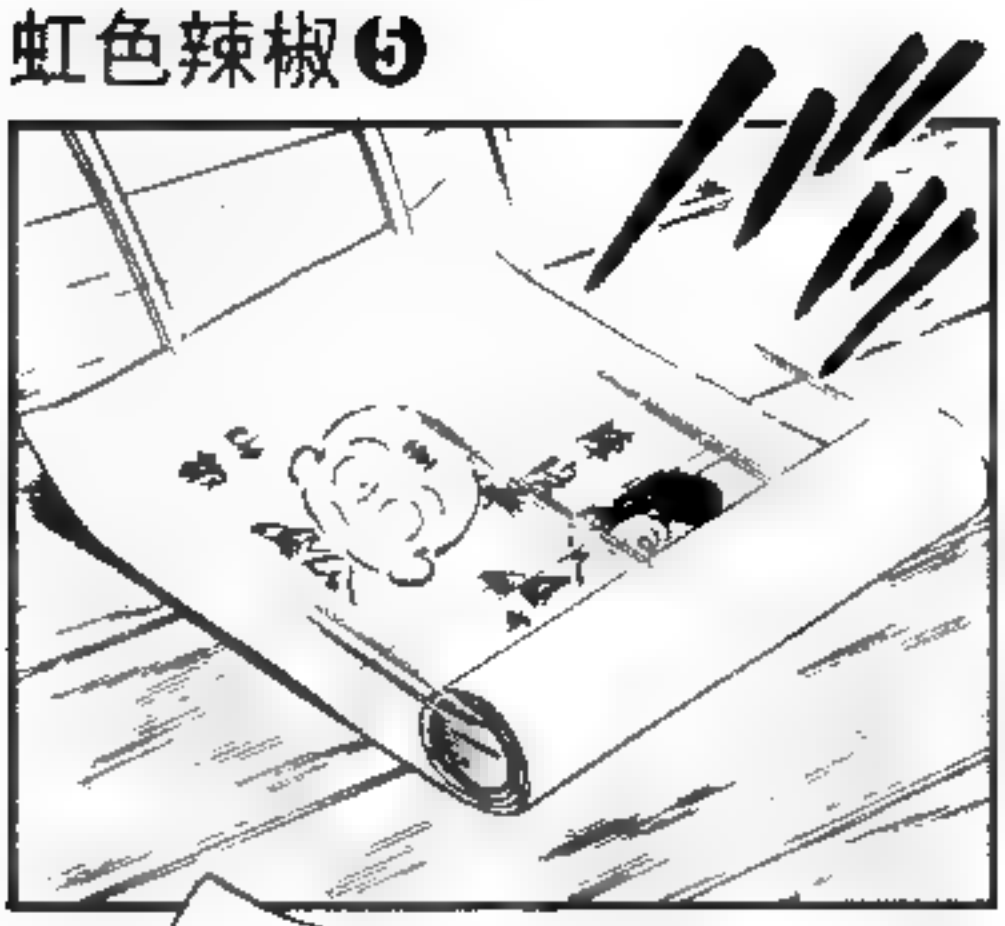
TWO OVER THERE,
FOUR OVER THERE

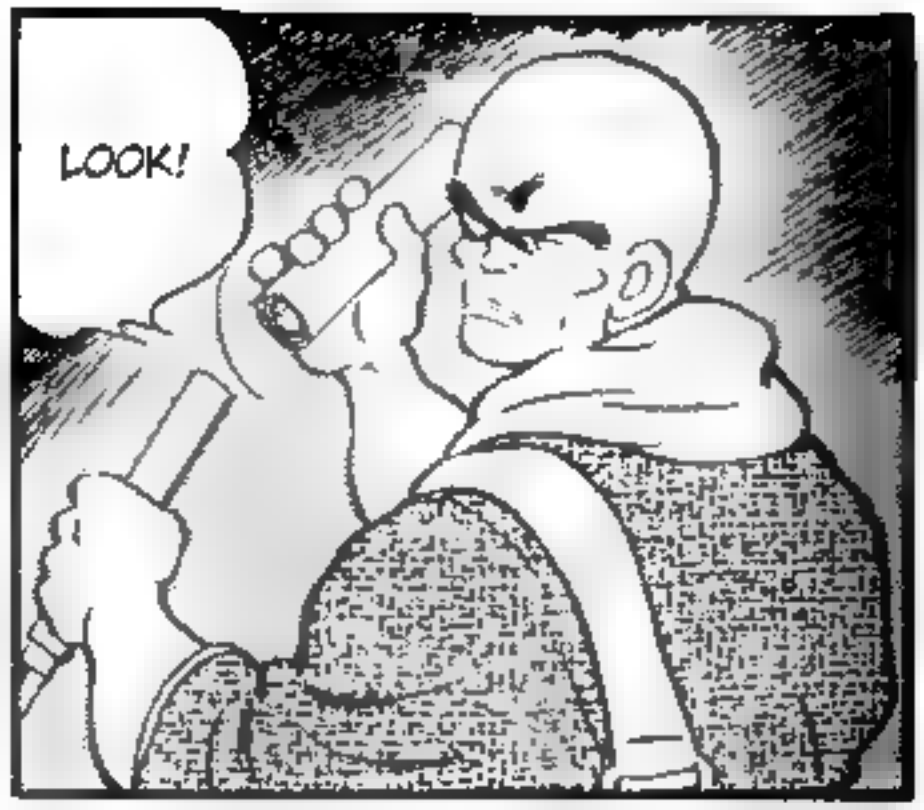


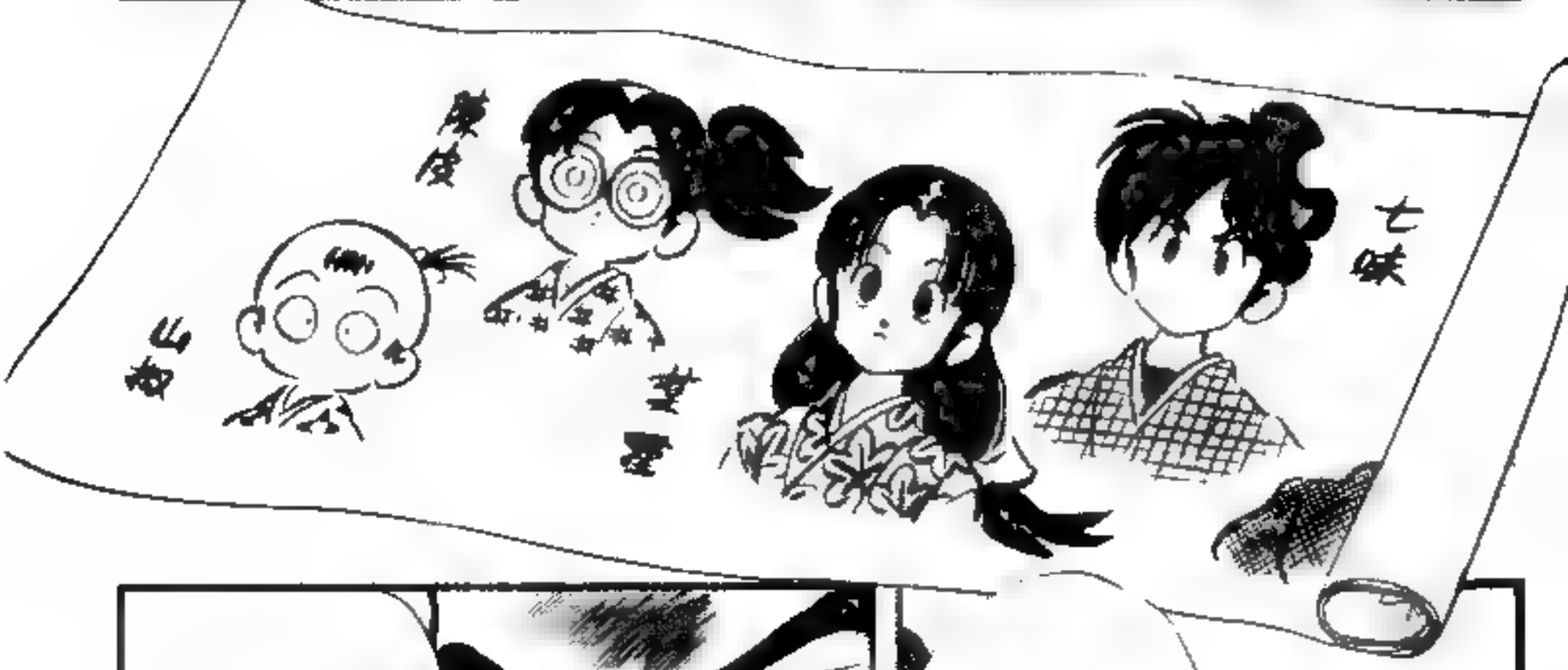
SHE ISN'T ONE.

STOP!

WHAT?




LOOK!


七味
唐辛子

THEREFORE, ONE OF THE HEIRS TO THE SHOGUNATE! YOU'RE WRONG!

SHE IS ONE OF THE SEVEN SIBLINGS FROM THE KARAKURI TENEMENTS!

I KNOW.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

SHE'S NOT THE SHOGUN'S DAUGHTER.

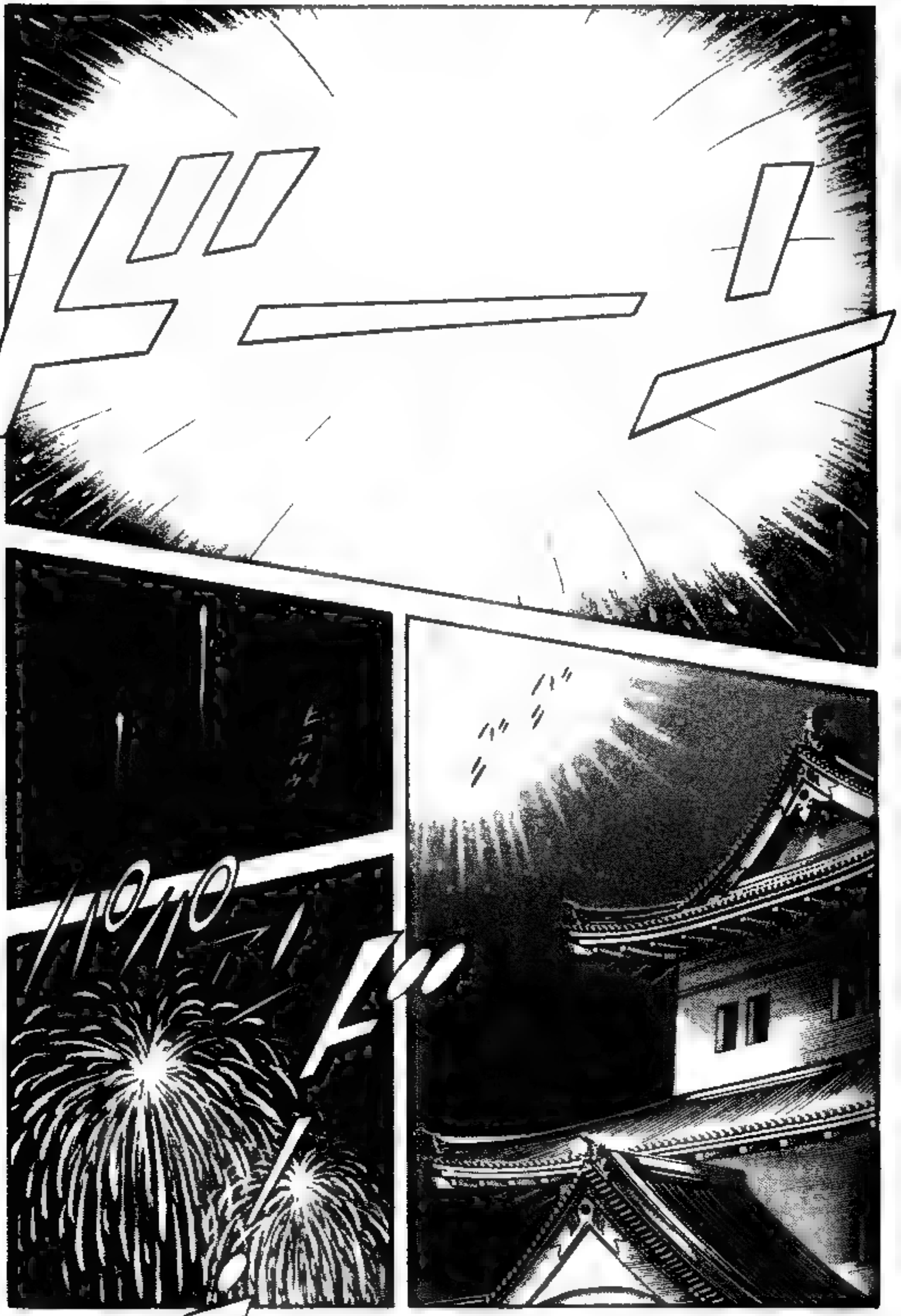
WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU?

WAIT FOR THE OTHERS.

IN ANY CASE, THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL HER NOW.

YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO STEAL MY MONEY, ARE YOU?

THE REWARD IS 500 RYOU FOR EACH ONE OF THEM KILLED...


ヒュー
DOO

COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY!

HEY, STUPID COMMONER! YOU LIKE IT?

WE BROUGHT THESE FIREWORKS ALL THE WAY FROM EDO! NEAT, EH?

OUI

OKAY!! THERE WAS A SAD MAN NAMED KOI,

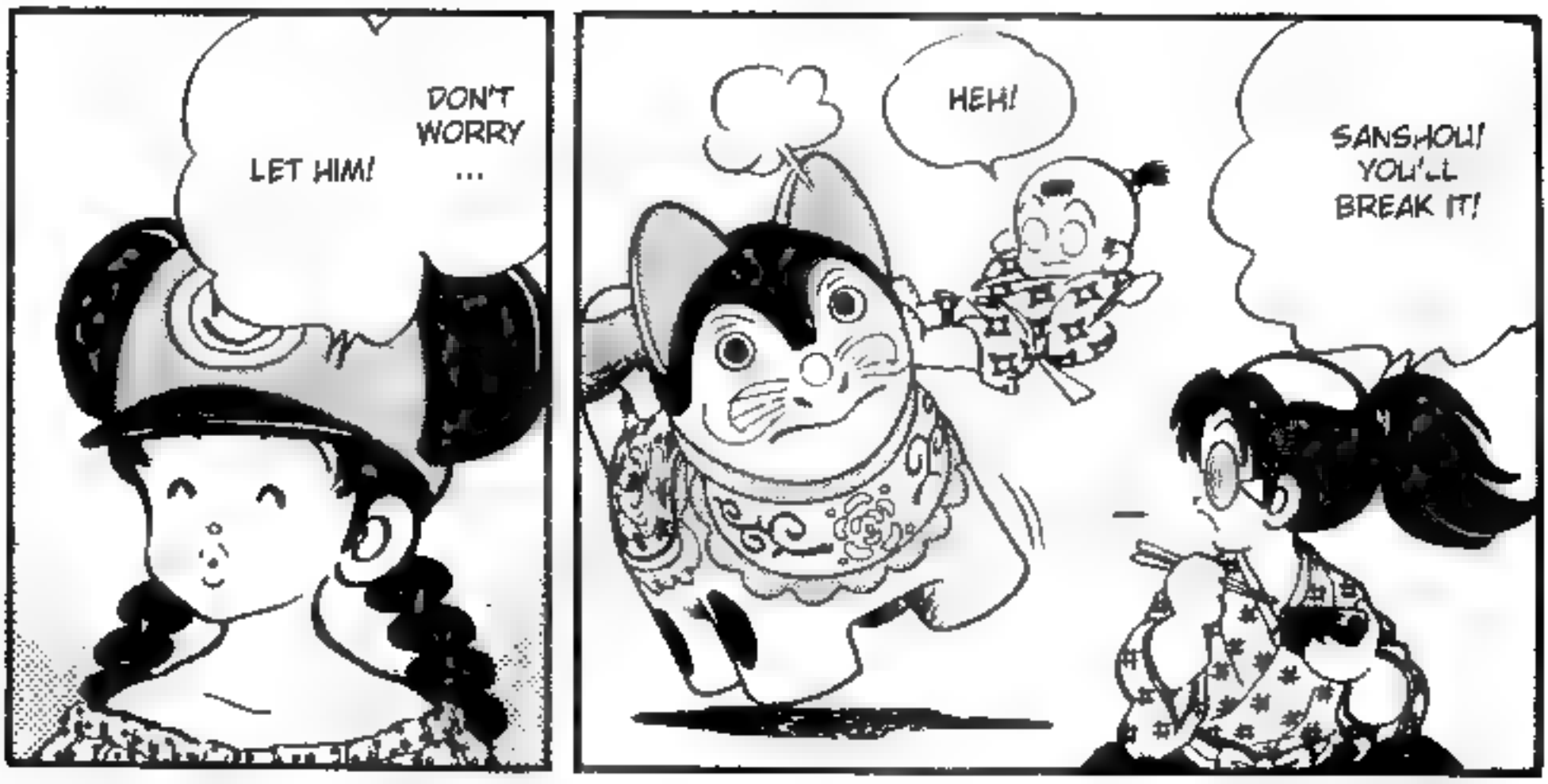
GOMA.

TELL A JOKE.

BUT NOW HE'S FILLED WITH JOY, ALTHOUGH HE'S BEEN CRYING SINCE HIS WIFE WENT A-DYING,

FORGET IT.

NOW HE SUBSCRIBES TO PLAY...


DON'T WORRY ...
LET HIM!
HEH!
SANSHOU! YOU'LL BREAK IT!

THE PRINCESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SELFISH AND STUBBORN, BUT TODAY'S SHE MUCH LESS SO.
HEH!
HOW ODD!

.....
?

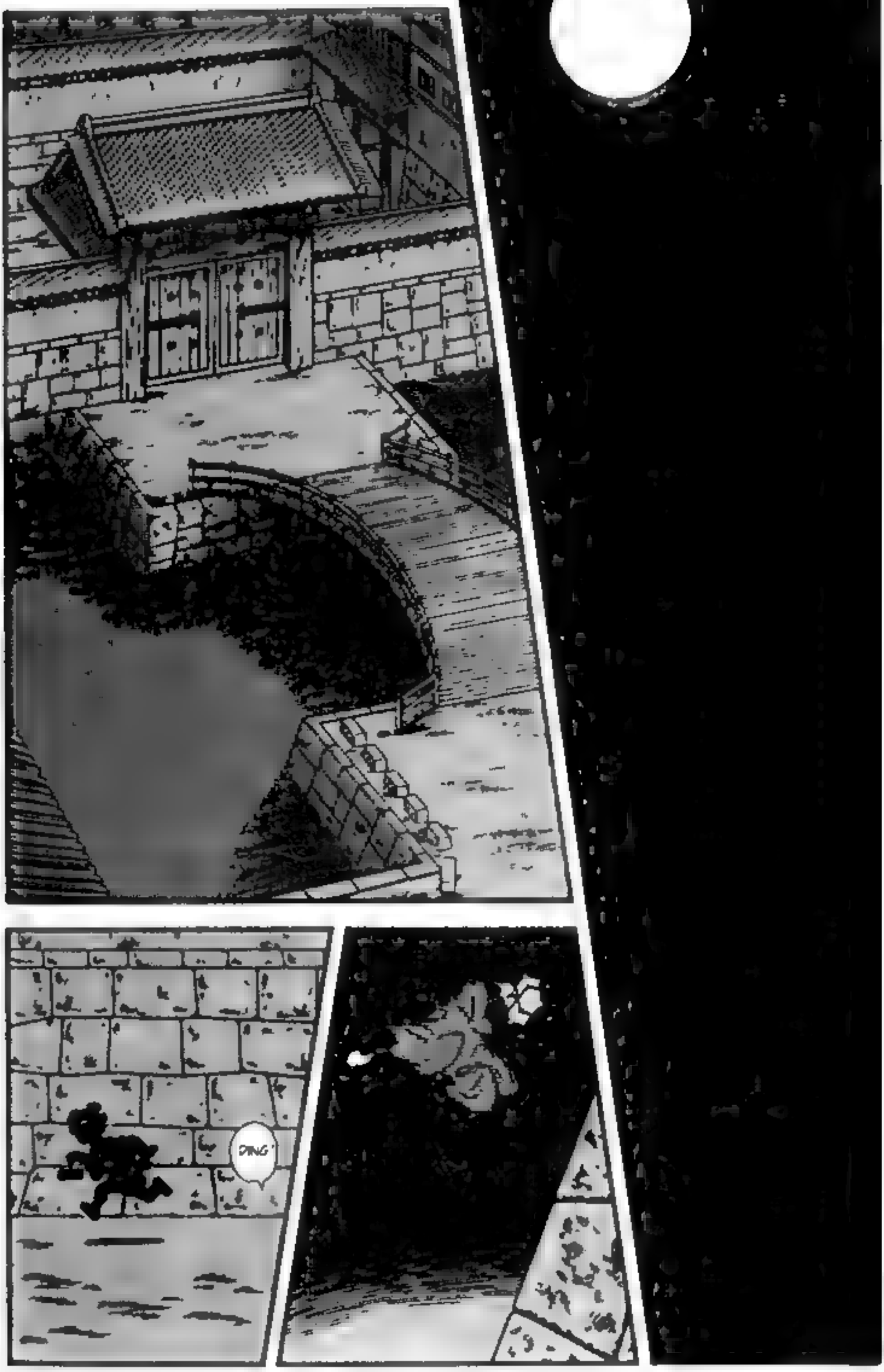
ギク
SHE'S WITH FAMILY OR SOMETHING?
HANZO, DON'T YOU THINK THE PRINCESS SEEMS LIKE...

SEEMS LIKE IT.
OH.
YEAH, MAYBE...

TAKE IT TO HER.

WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE, RUN!

I'LL DISTRACT THE PRINCESS.


DING

YOU TWO MUST BE HUNGRY BY NOW.

GOOD WORK.

OH!

MASTER HANZO!

WHO GOES THERE?

HM?

AH!

THANK YOU, SIR!

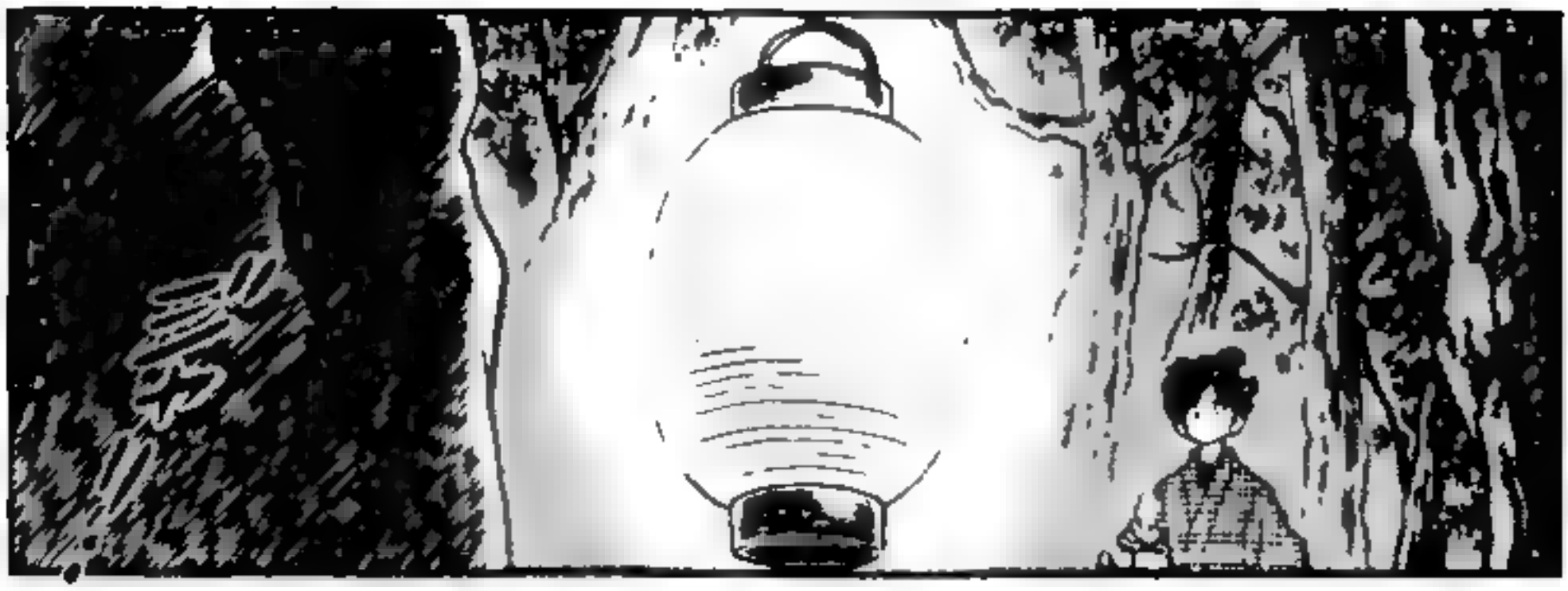
HUH?

WHAT?

NO...

NOTHING ...

HE'LL MAKE A GOOD NINJA SOMEDAY...


BECAUSE...I HAVE TO GET TO THE IMA-NAMI TEMPLE.
THE IMANAMI TEMPLE?
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AROUND AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
HUH ?
IT'S THIS WAY, I THINK.
EH?
SHOULDN'T THE IMANAMI TEMPLE BE THAT WAY?

NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND IT.

I SEE...

AH!

THAT MUST BE RIGHT.

CAREFUL. THERE ARE STEPS UP AHEAD.

THE TEMPLE SHOULD BE AT THE TOP.

YES...

BETTER EXTINGUISH THE LANTERN.

NO.

SIX.

FIVE MEN ... RIGHT?

WHAT COULD THEY WANT?

I'LL TAKE TWO, YOU TAKE FOUR.

OH!

HUH?

DID YOU GIVE ME FOUR OR FIVE?

OW!

NOT BAD.

I DON'T REMEMBER GETTING ON ANY HIT LISTS...

YOU MUST BE THE TARGET.

THEY COULDN'T BE AFTER ME!

LOOKS LIKE I WAS THE TARGET, AFTER ALL.

SORRY.

カ"
ー"
"

EH?

麻次郎

各不相同的親近感の巻

PART 48 -- A STRANGE FEELING OF CLOSENESS

IS SOME-THING WRONG ?

UH...

YOU'RE ...

WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

YOU'RE SHICHIMI?

UH, YES.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

AH ...

SO... YOU'RE SHICHIMI!

NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO, THEN.

INDEED!

WELL ...

IT WAS SO SUDDEN...

OH, NO NEED TO BOW...

BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO BE THAT GOOD.

I HEARD NATANE SAY YOU WERE A VERY GOOD SWORDSMAN.

I ...

OH?

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'D RATHER BE CALLED A VERY GOOD ARTIST...

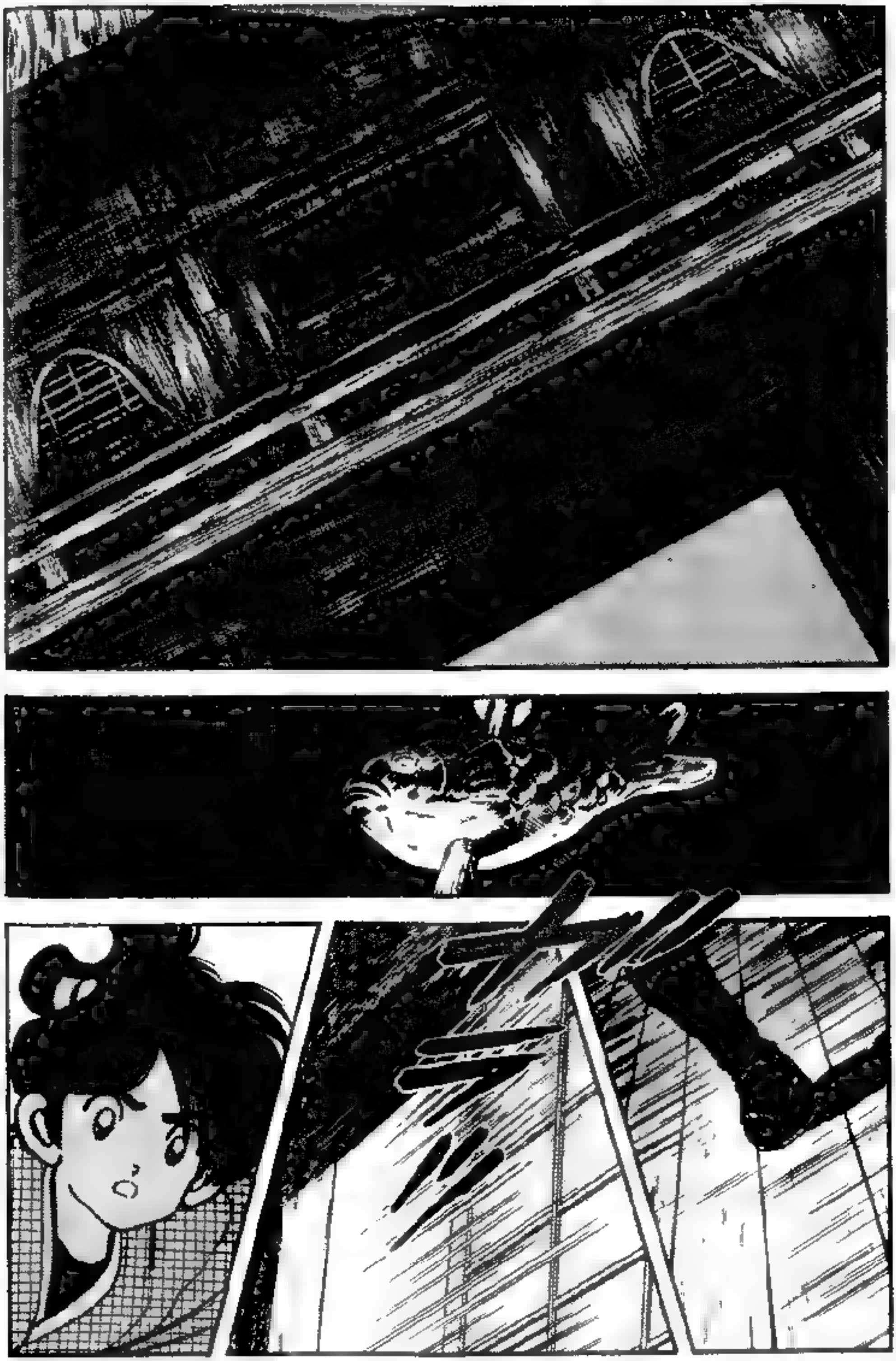
BUT WHO WOULD WANT TO KILL US?

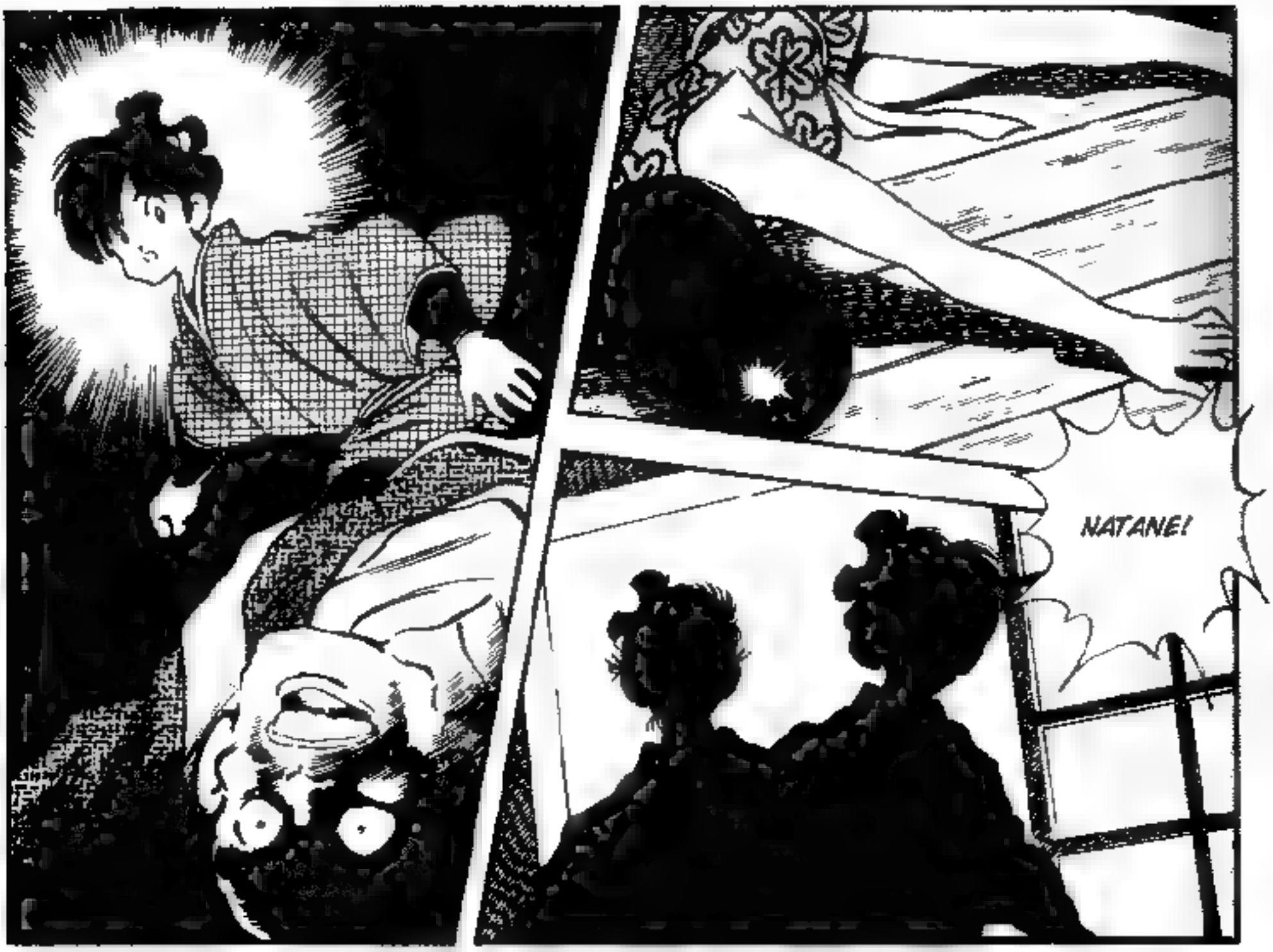
...BUT WHOMEVER DREW THESE PORTRAITS IS PRETTY SKILLED, TOO.

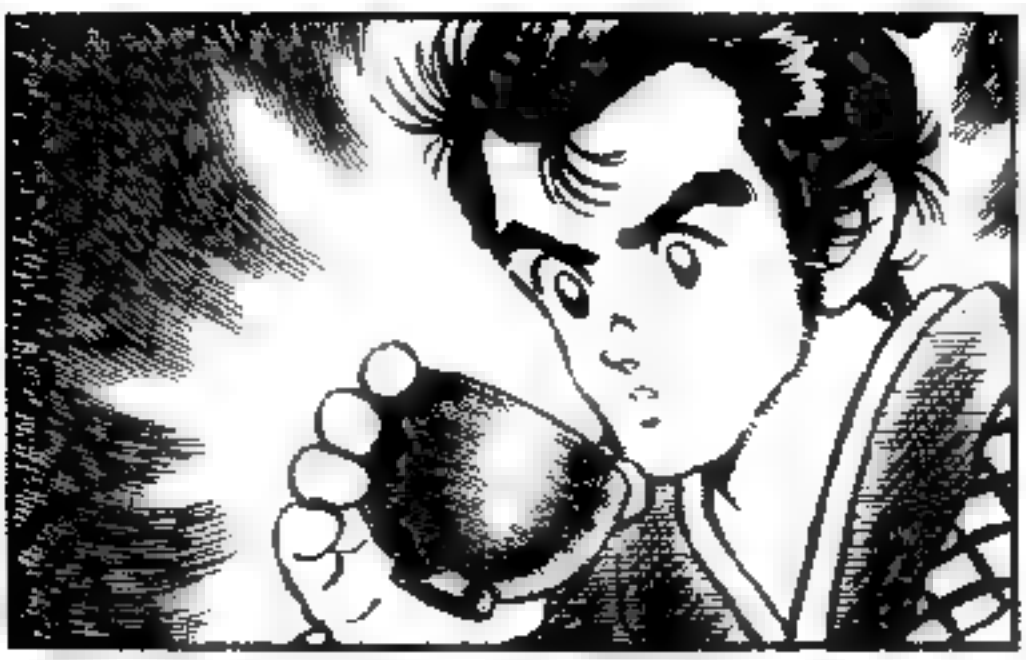
NATANE! SHE WENT TO THE TEMPLE BEFORE ME, ALONE!

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT?




NATANE!



DON'T WORRY.
SHE'S ALIVE. JUST DRUGGED.

AND SHE KILLED THIS MAN?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT JUDGING FROM THE WOUNDS...

...HE'S A GENIUS SWORDS-MAN.

THEN WHO?
NO! DEFINITELY NOT!

*SNORE

WHEW !

咕

咕

*...SNOORE

唔呼：

一哇

ギク

HEY!

WHERE'S SHICHIMI!!

WHAT A TROUBLESOME PRINCESS.

PEACE AND QUIET, AT LAST.

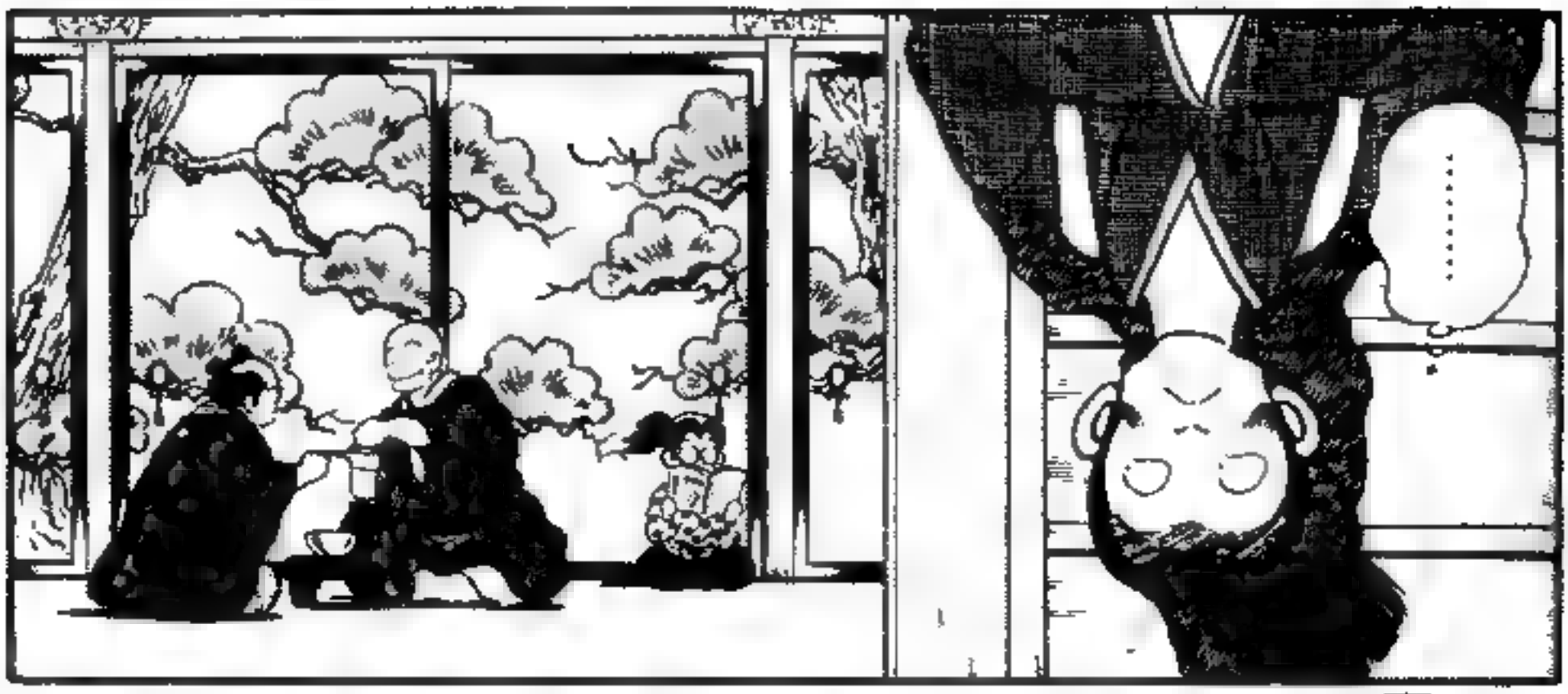
SANSHOU RARELY GETS ALONG WITH STRANGERS SO

BUT IT'S FUNNY, Y'KNOW?

NO MATTER HOW DEMANDING OR PETULANT SHE GETS, I DON'T FEEL THE LEAST BIT ANGRY.

I DID FEEL A STRANGE KIND OF CLOSENESS.

NOW THAT YOU GUYS MENTION IT...


……
WHAT?
PRINCESS KOTO? VISITING, ALL THE WAY FROM EDO?
ARE THEY HERE?
ドット
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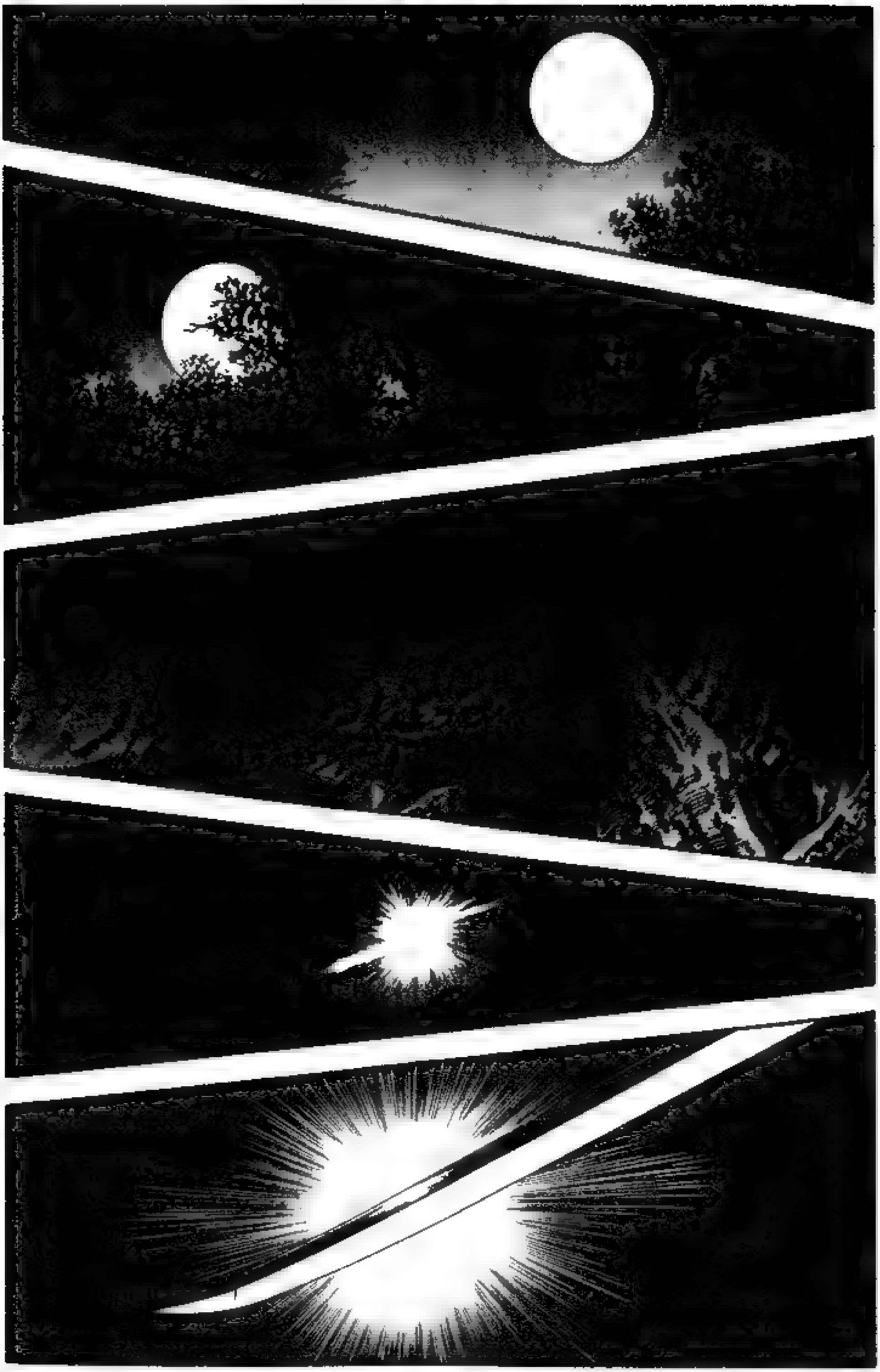
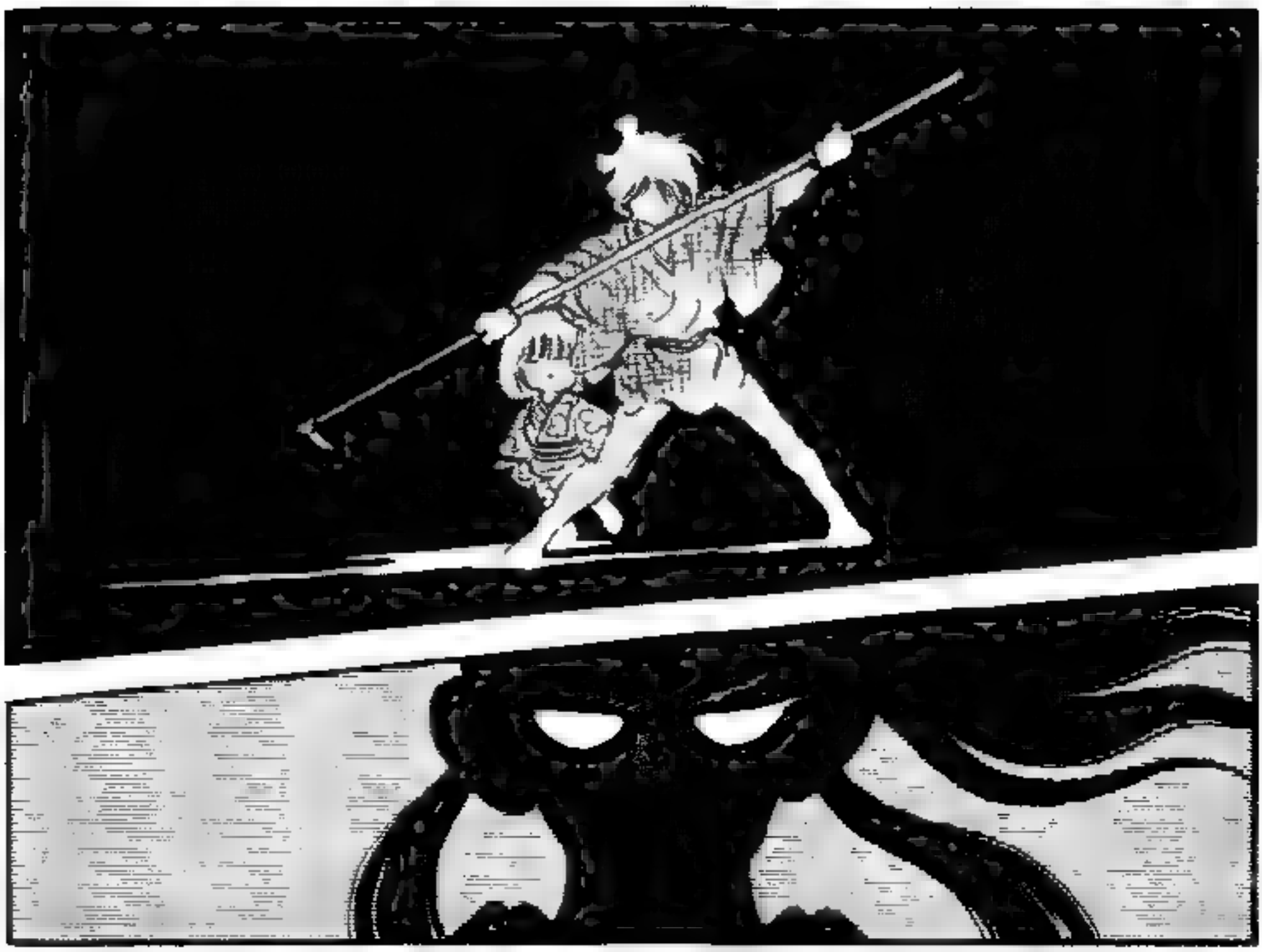
THEN I'D BETTER PAY MY RESPECTS BEFORE I RETURN TO THE TEMPLE, HEHEH!

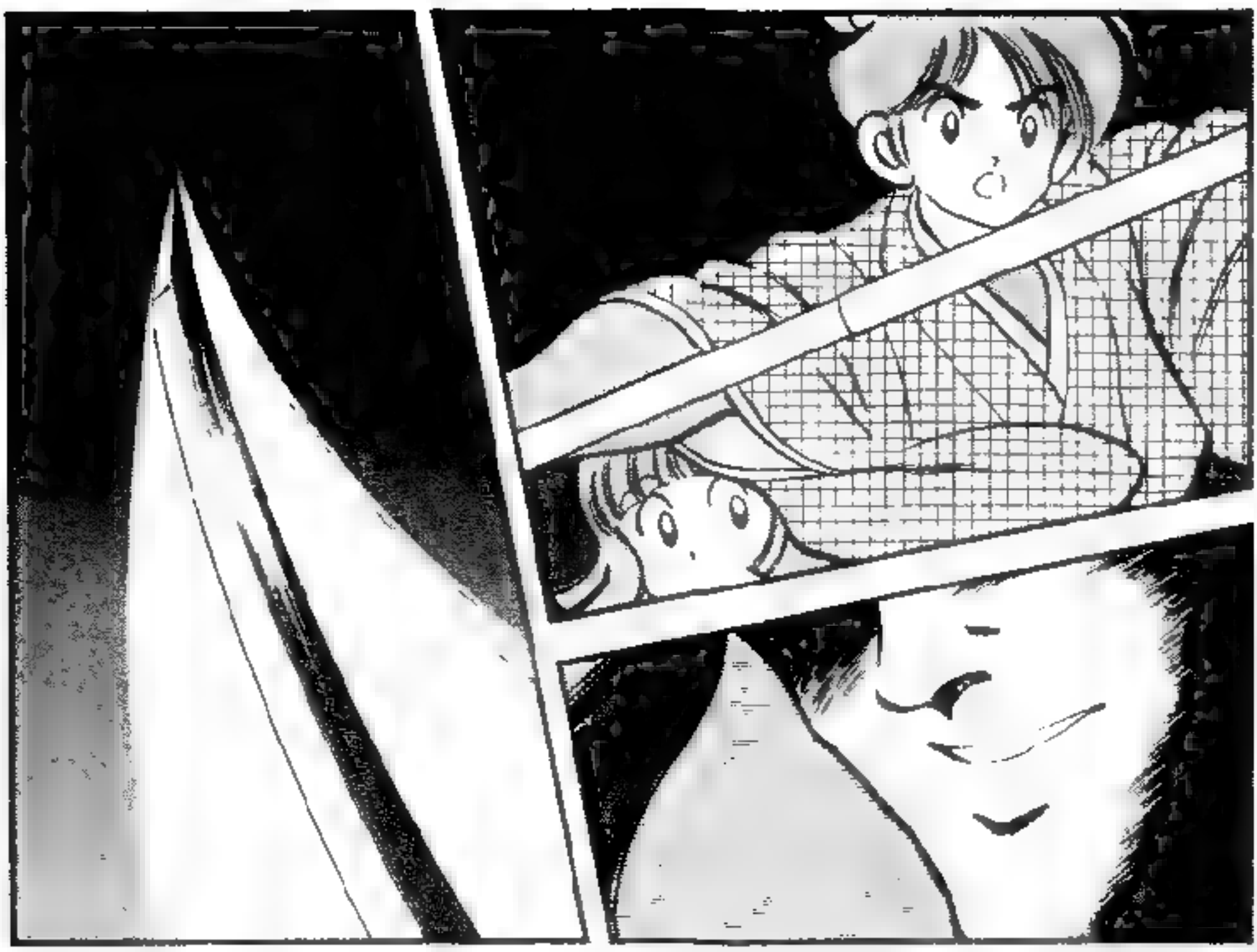
EXCUSE ME.

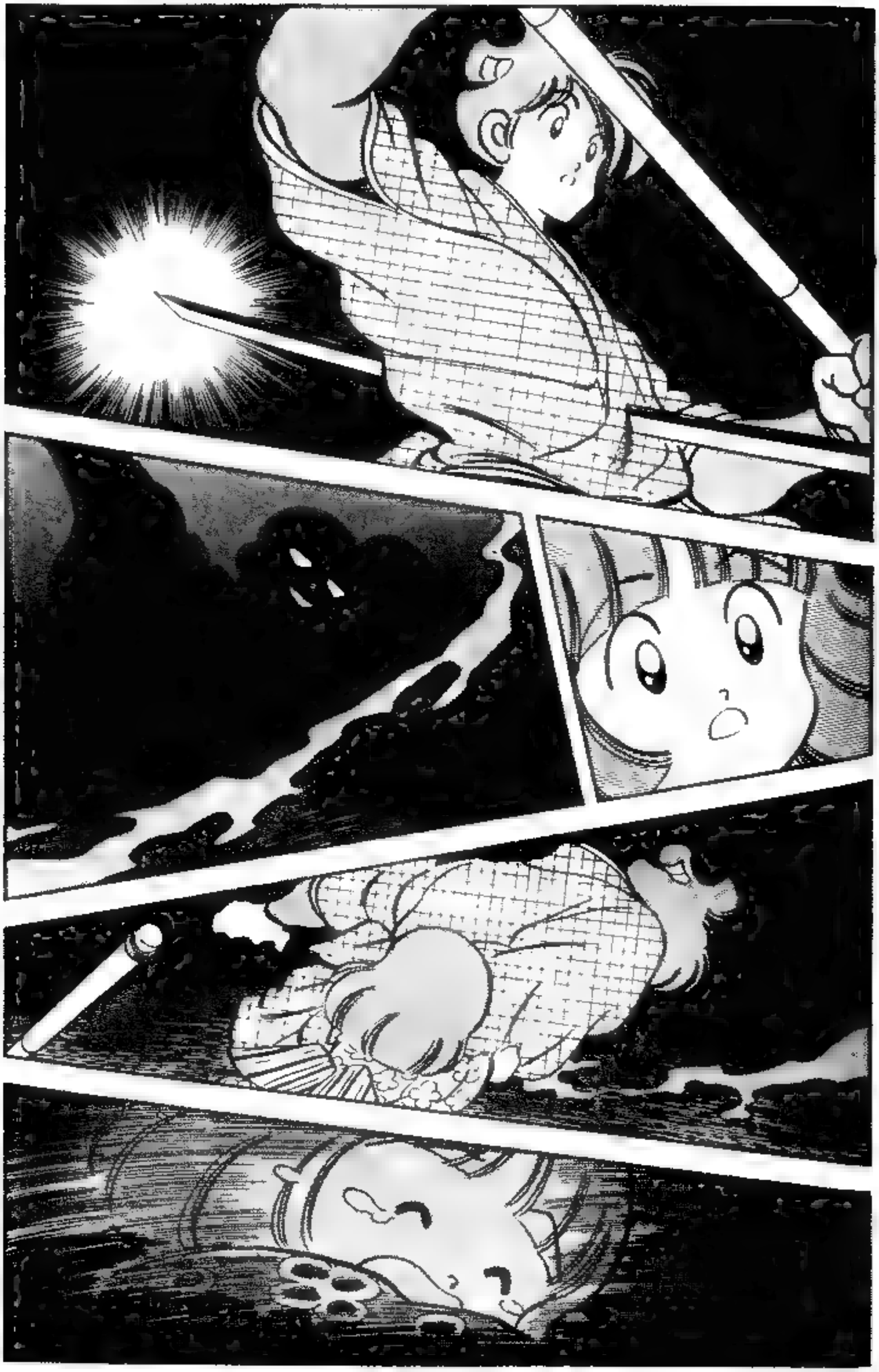
WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE, KESHI?

OH...?

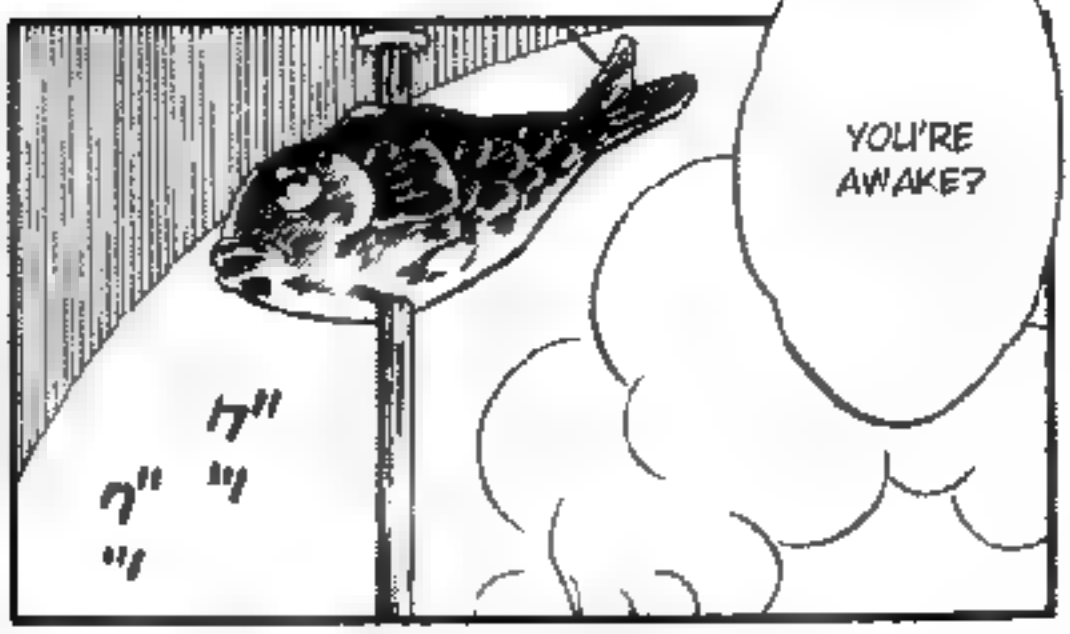


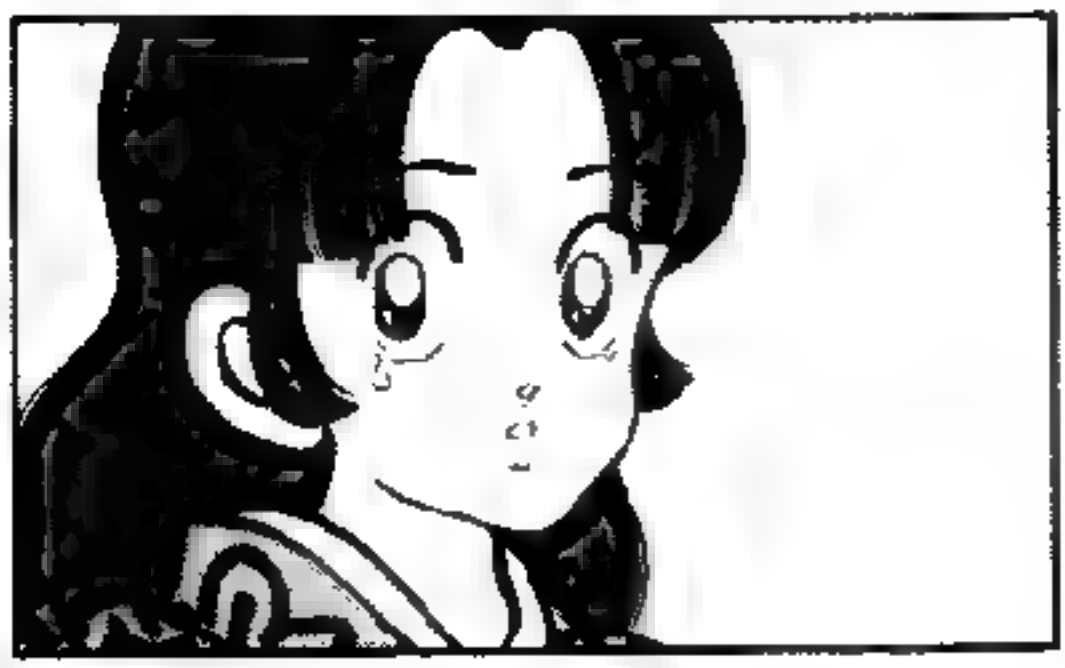


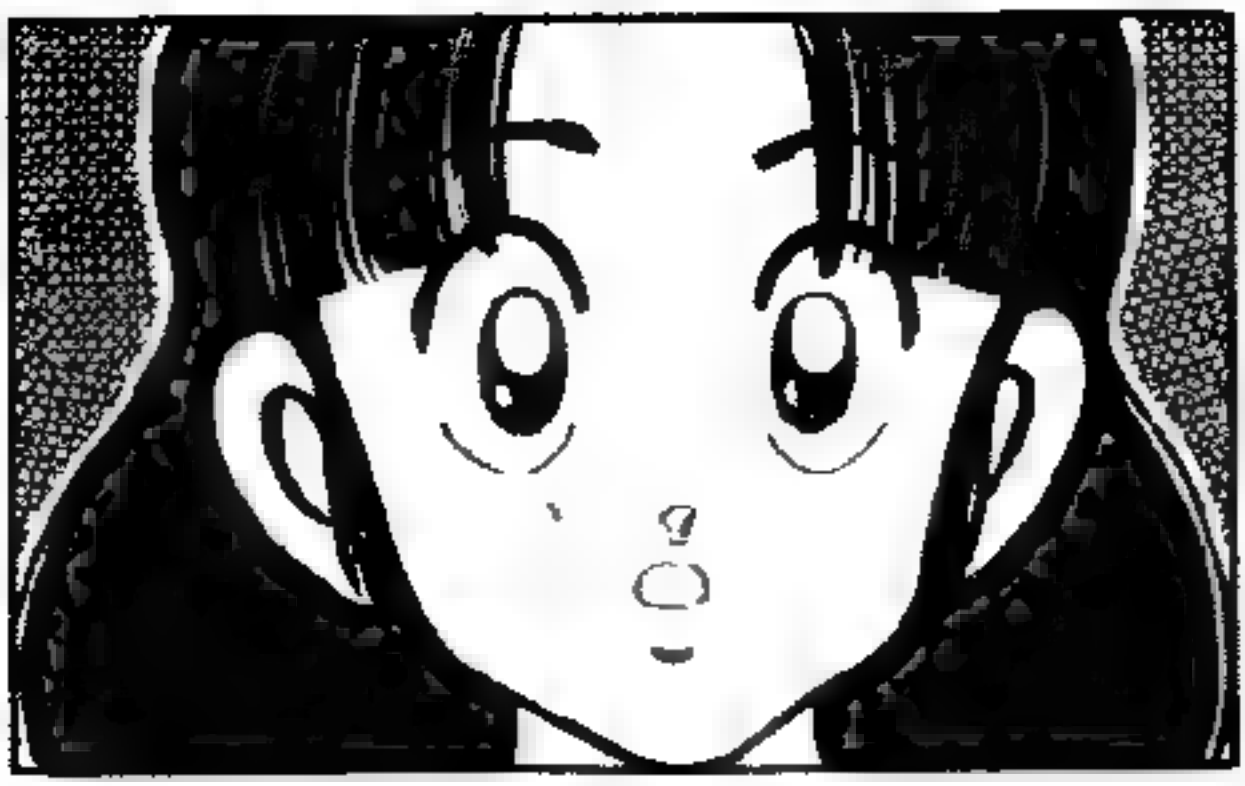


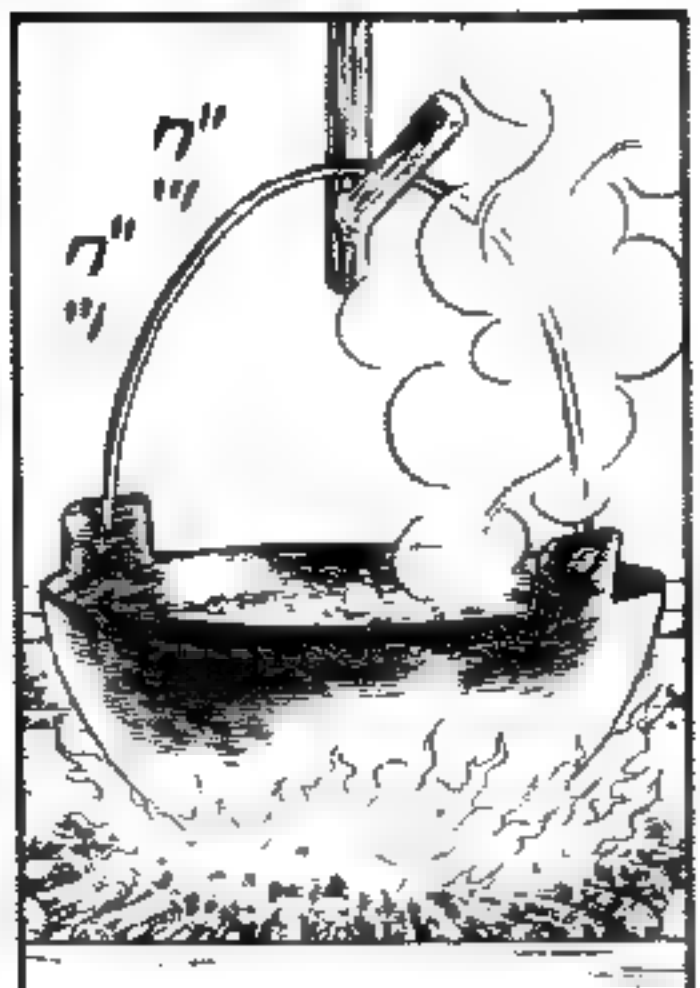


THE CONGEE WILL BE READY SOON.


YOU'RE AWAKE?







WHOA!
ASAJIROU-ONIISAN!!!
HEY!
NOT SO CLOSE TO THE FIRE!
YOU FINALLY CAUGHT UP!
I'M SO HAPPY!
YOU SILLY GIRL..
...ALWAYS, MY SILLY LITTLE SISTER!

"I WISH IT WAS ASAJIROU-ONIISAN.

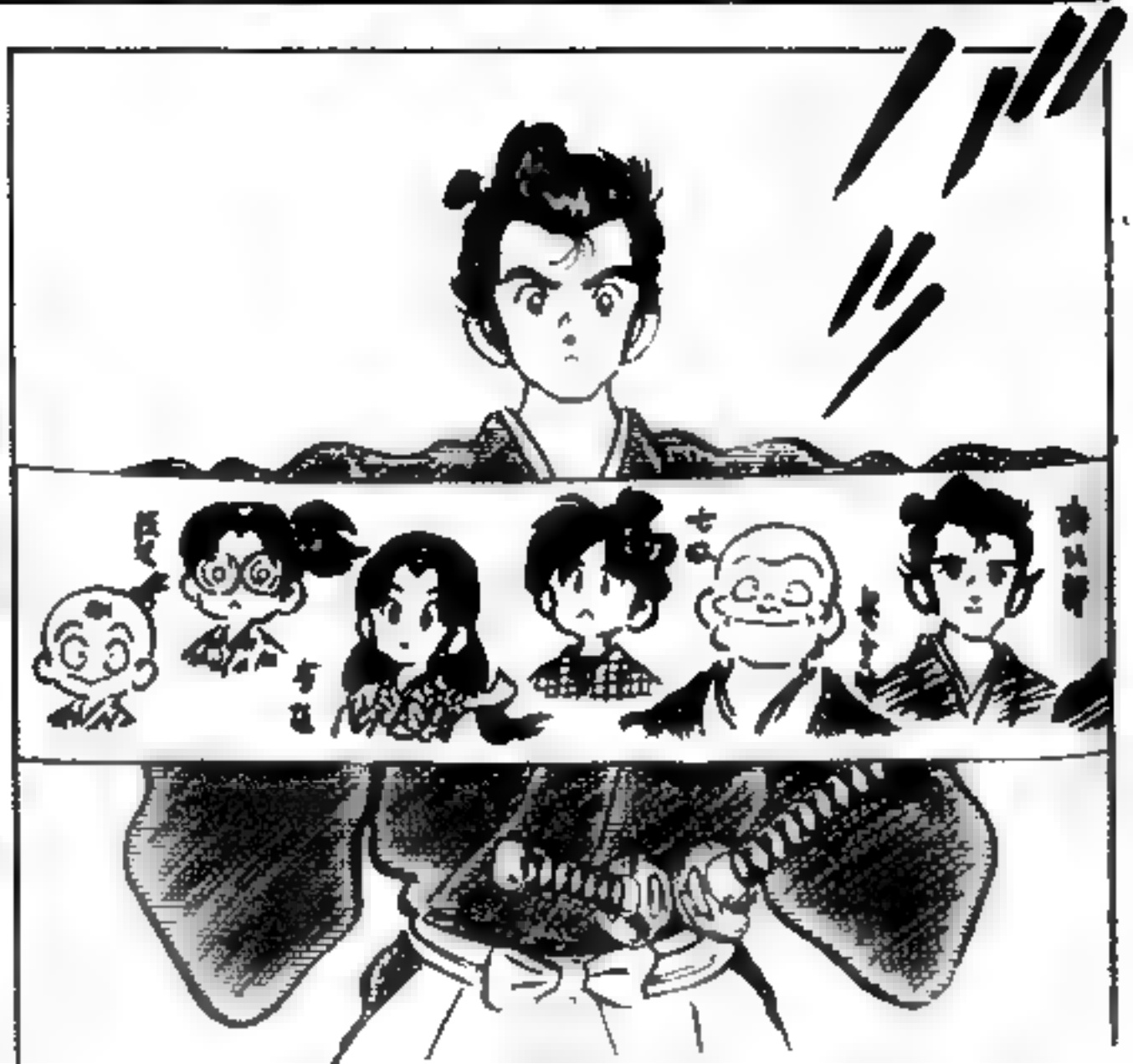
IF WE WEREN'T RELATED, I COULD MARRY HIM!"

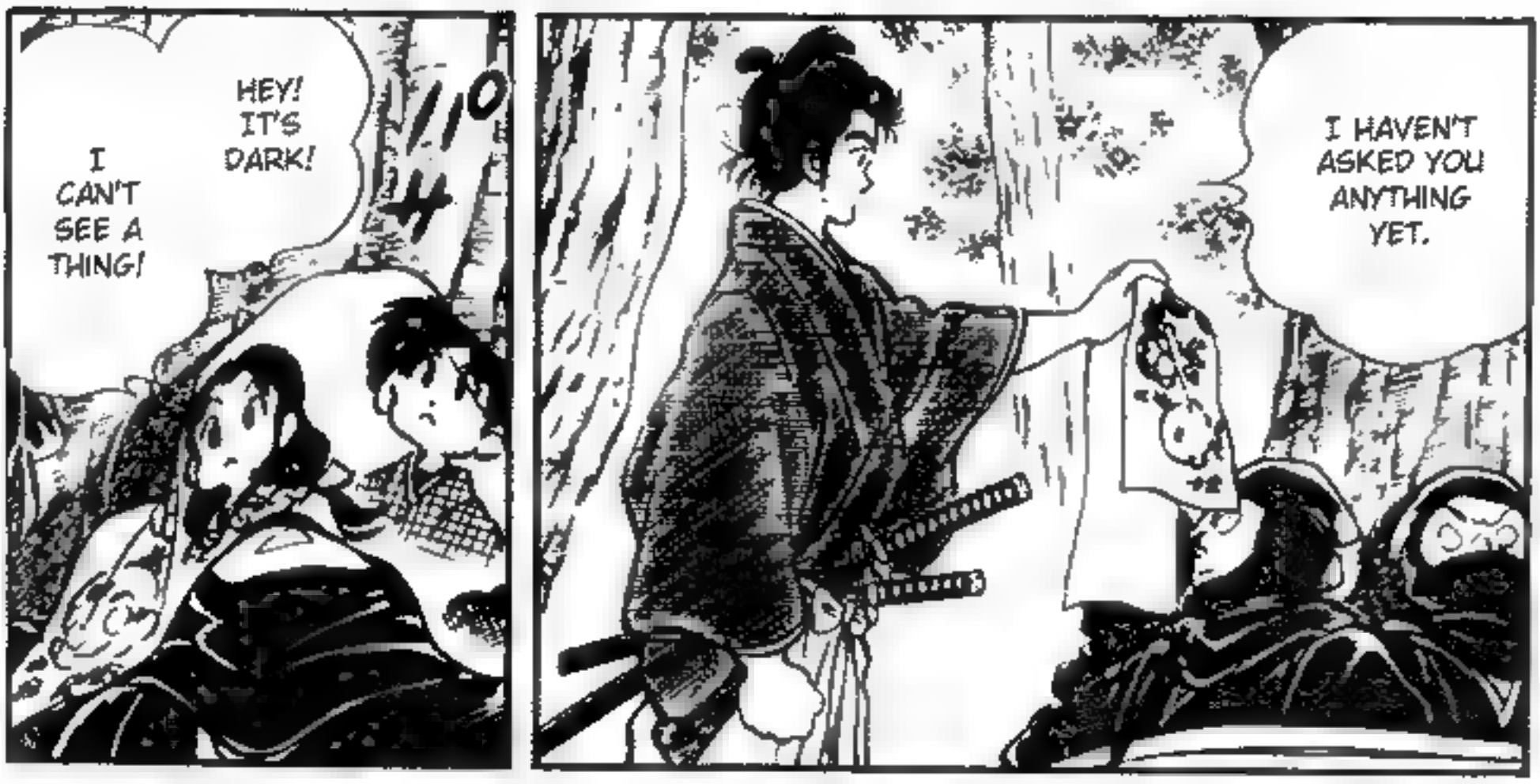
WELL, I GUES

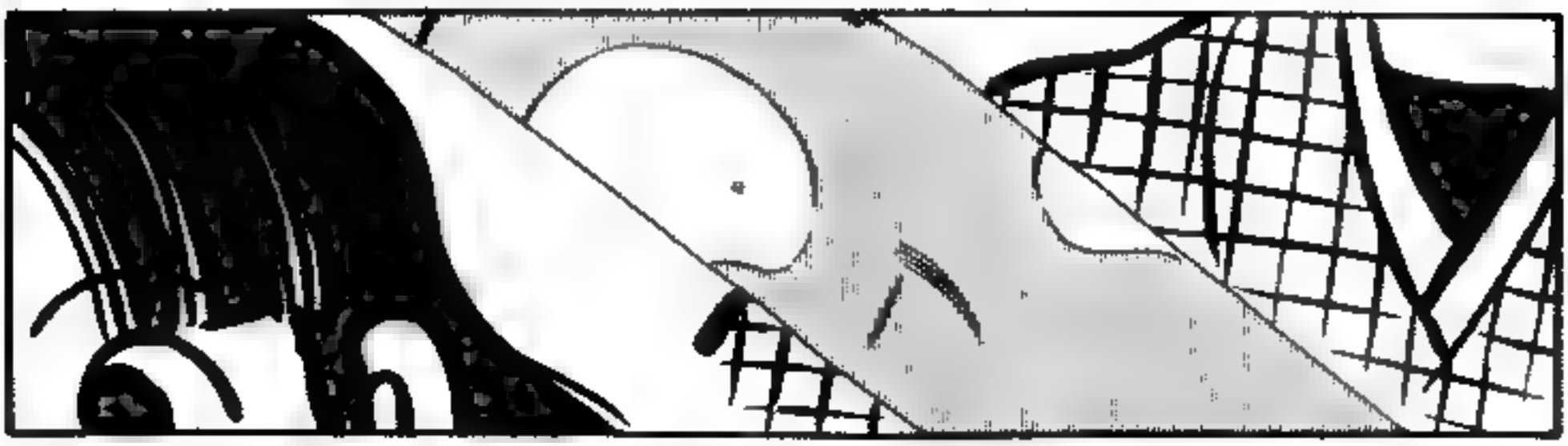
I MIGHT AS WELL EAT THIS MYSELF.

!
THE GRAVE OF
KESHI'S MOTHER

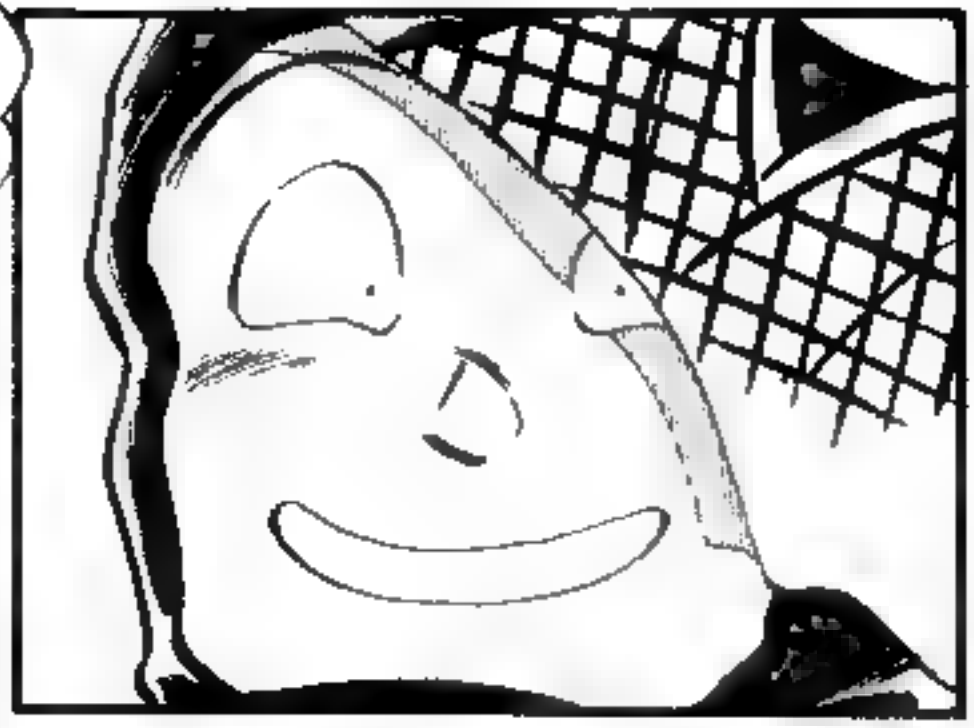
WE DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT.

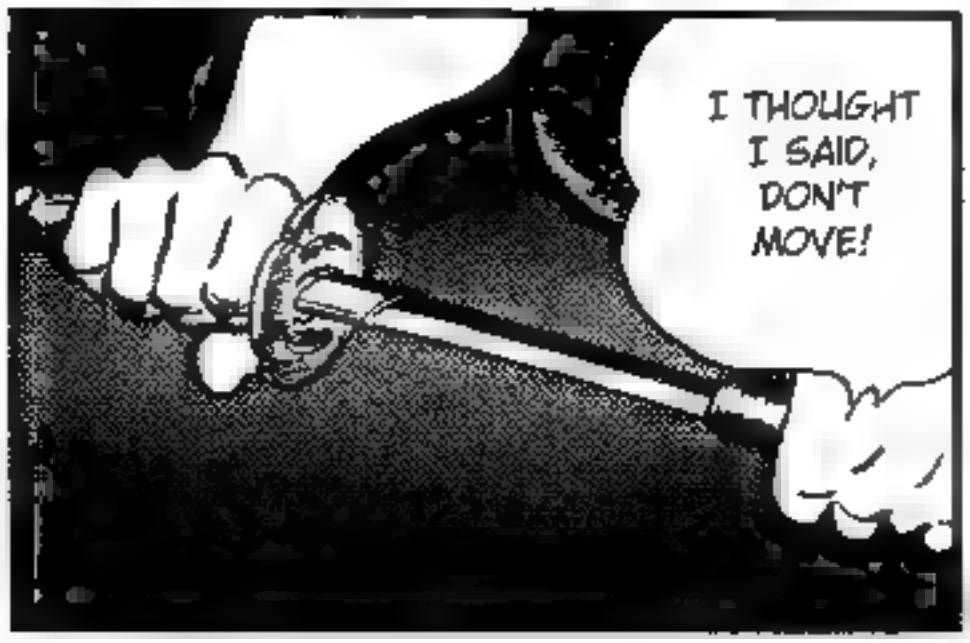


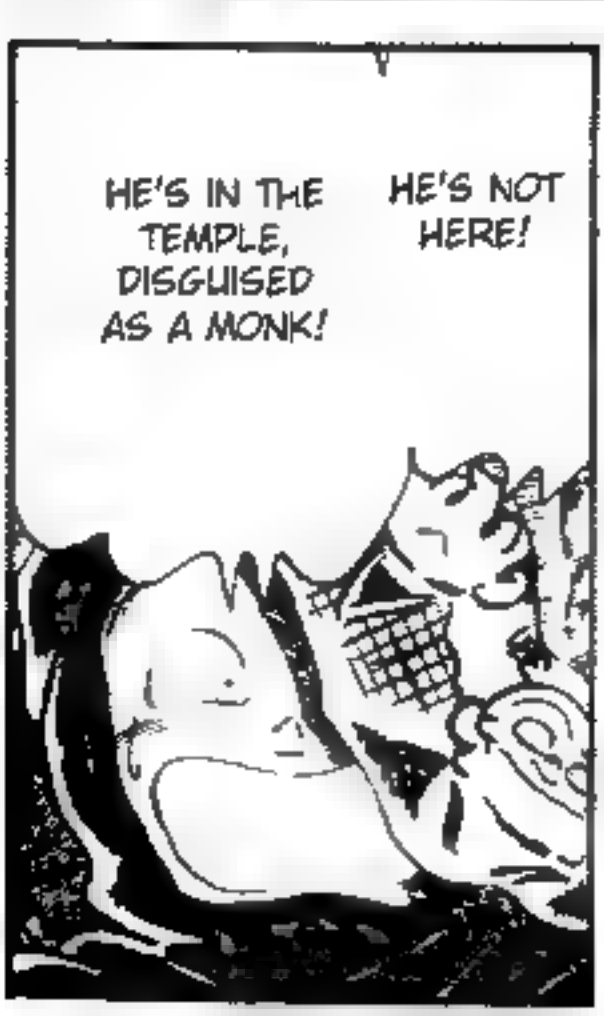

HEY! IT'S DARK!
I CAN'T SEE A THING!
I HAVEN'T ASKED YOU ANYTHING YET.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE REMINDED OF.
MAYBE THE DARK WILL REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING.
UH?
DON'T MOVE YOUR HEAD.



WE REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
KIND SIR!
AH!
UH!




I THOUGHT I SAID, DON'T MOVE!

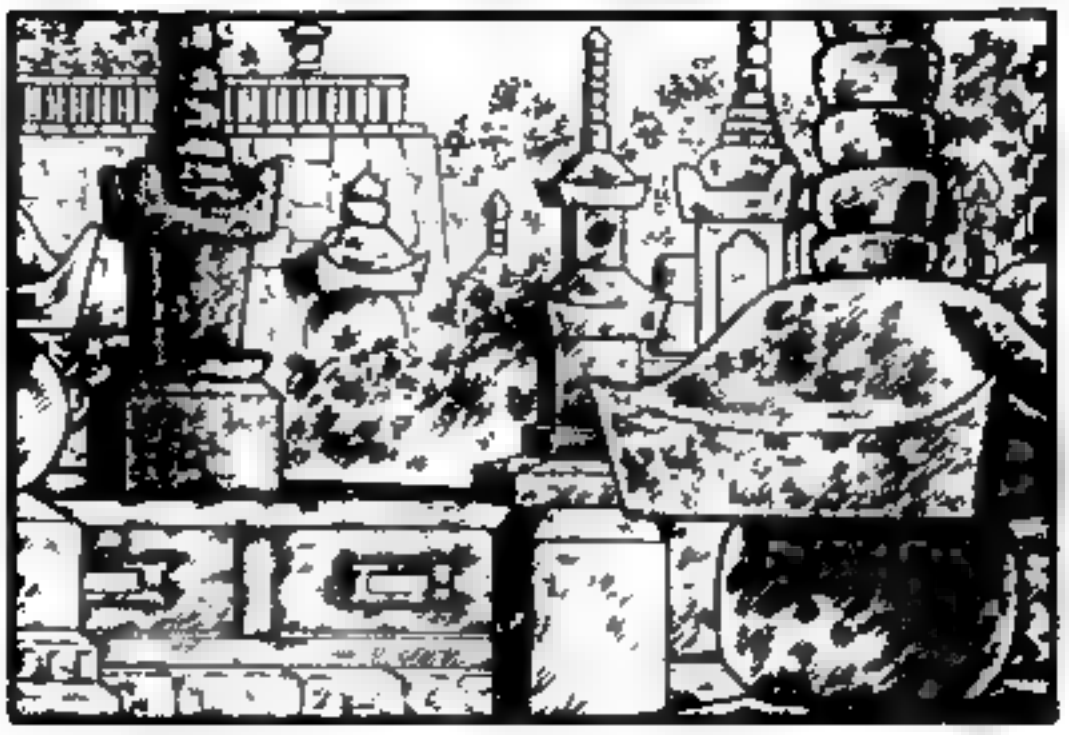

HE'S IN THE TEMPLE, DISGUISED AS A MONK!
HE'S NOT HERE!

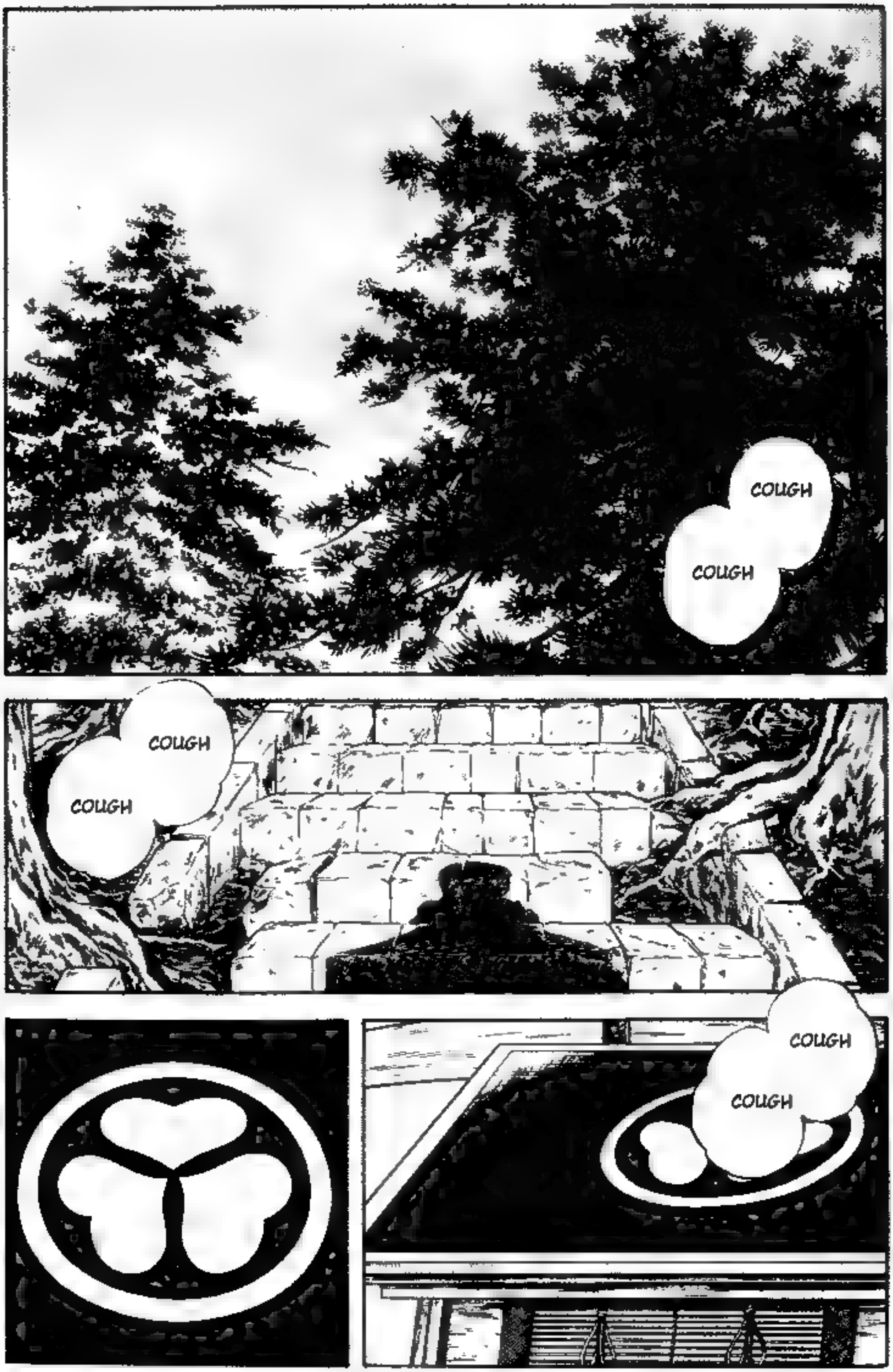
THE BOSS?
WE'RE JUST FOLLOWING THE BOSS' ORDERS!
WE JUST KNOW THERE'S A BIG REWARD FOR KILLING THE PEOPLE ON THIS SHEET!

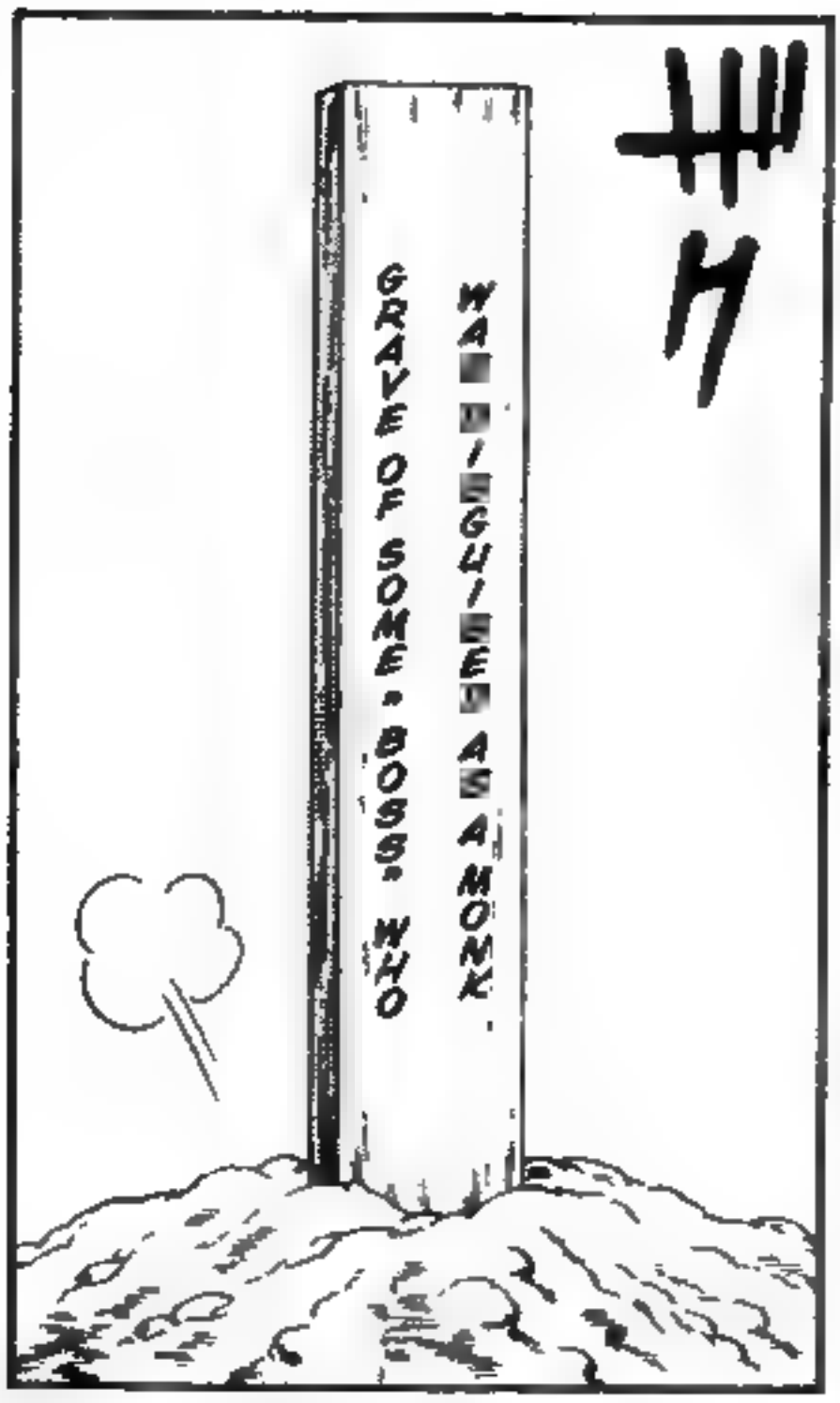
ドスーン

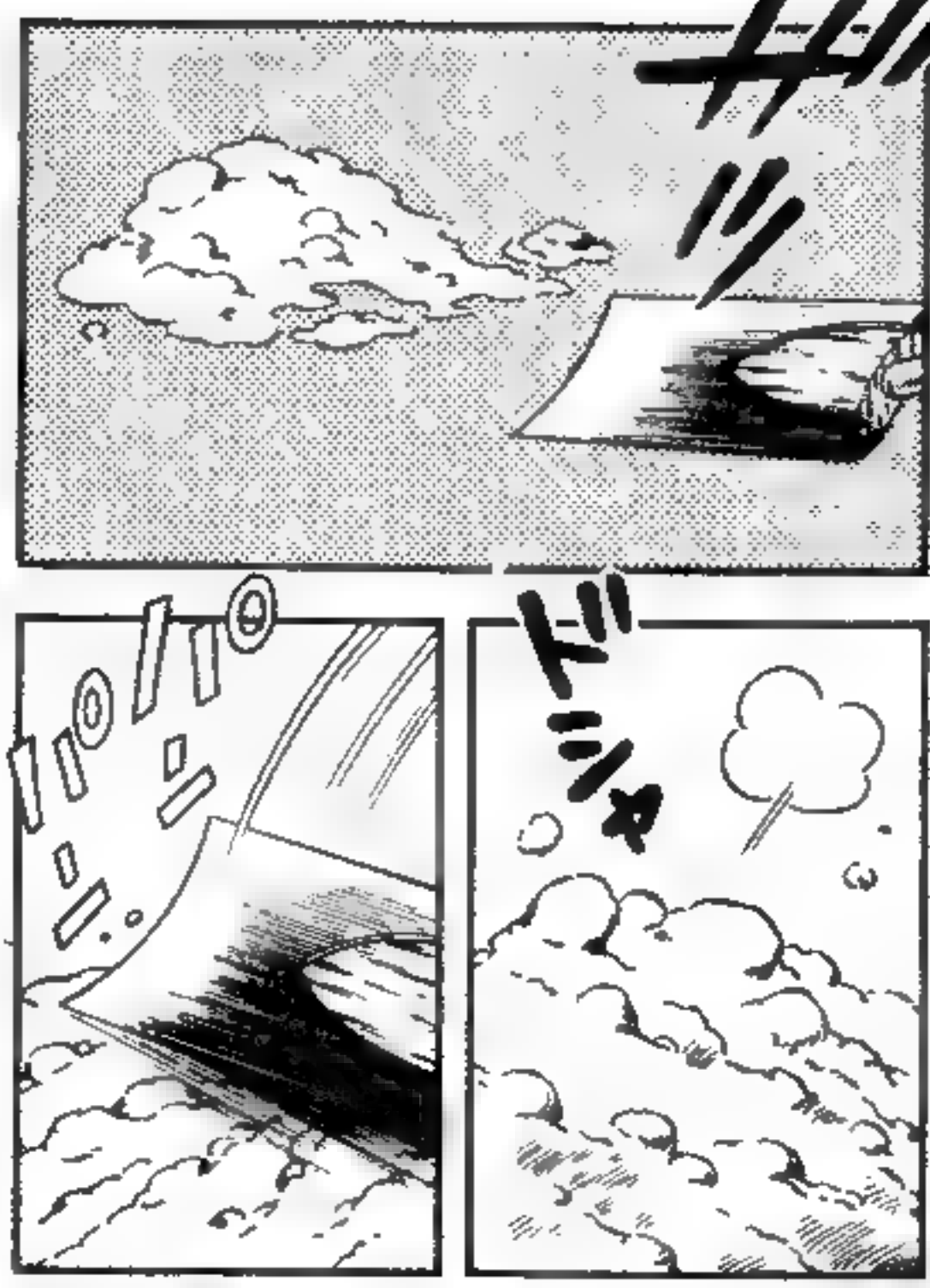
YOU MEAN... OUR BOSS...?

IF YOU DID, WHO WOULD YOU GET THE REWARD FROM?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU CERTAINLY WON'T TRY TO KILL US NOW.




COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH


GRAVE OF SOME BOSS. WHO
WAS BEHEADED AS A MONK.



ANOTHER NAME?
HEH, IF ASAJIROU-NISAN HADN'T SHOWN UP, THERE'D BE A DIFFERENT NAME ON THAT GRAVE MARKER.

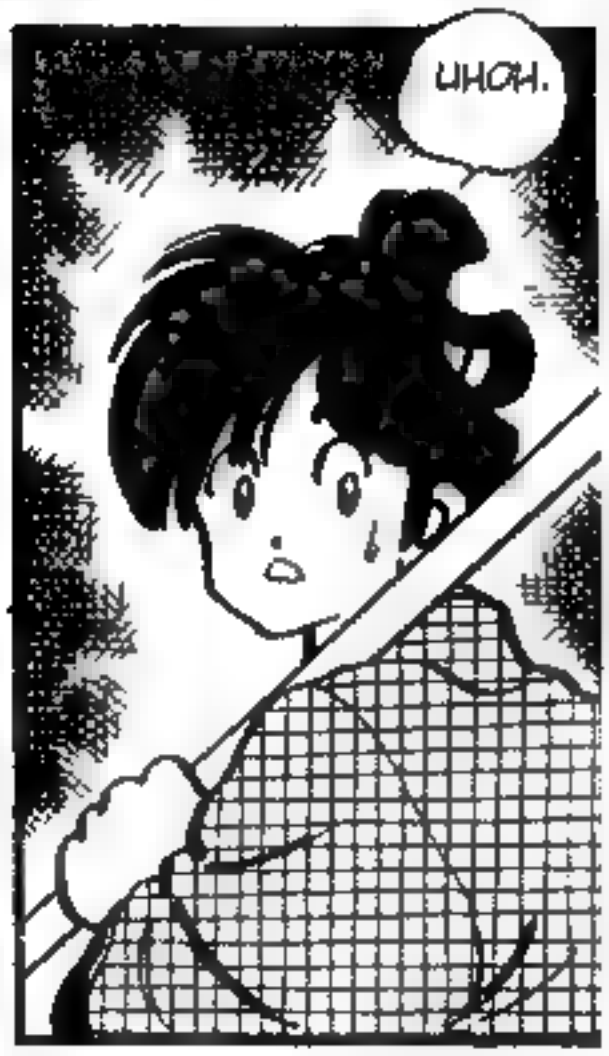
化装成和尚的
WHO KILLED THIS GUY, ANYWAY?
AND WHO WANTS US KILLED?

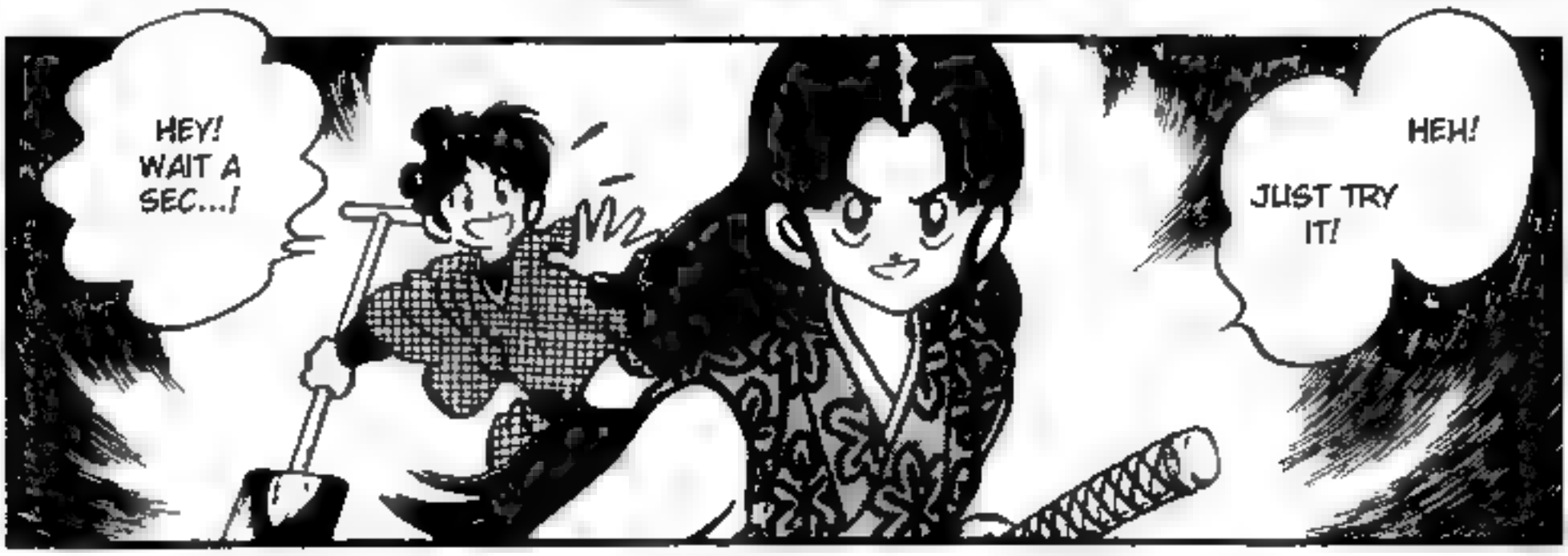
MORE LIKELY YOURS THAN MINE!

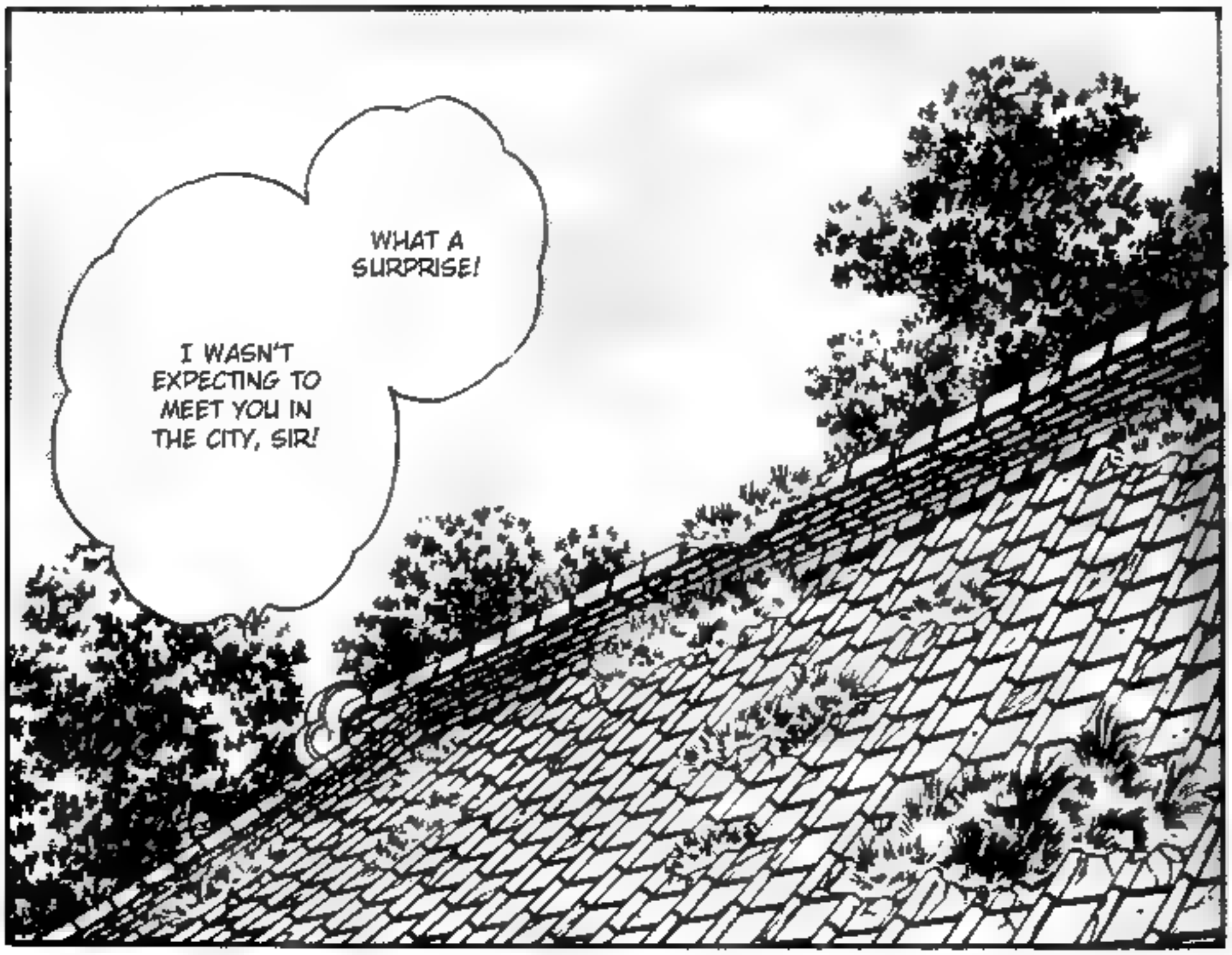
GEE, SORRY THAT I'M NOT SO DEPENDABLE AS HIM!
WITH ASAJIROU-NISAN HERE, WE CAN TAKE ON ANYBODY!
DON'T WORRY.
HUH?
I MEAN, DYING AFTER JUST ONE BLADE? THAT WAS PITIFUL!
YEAH!
NOTHING, JUST A DREAM...
BUT...

SHE'S DIFFERENT.

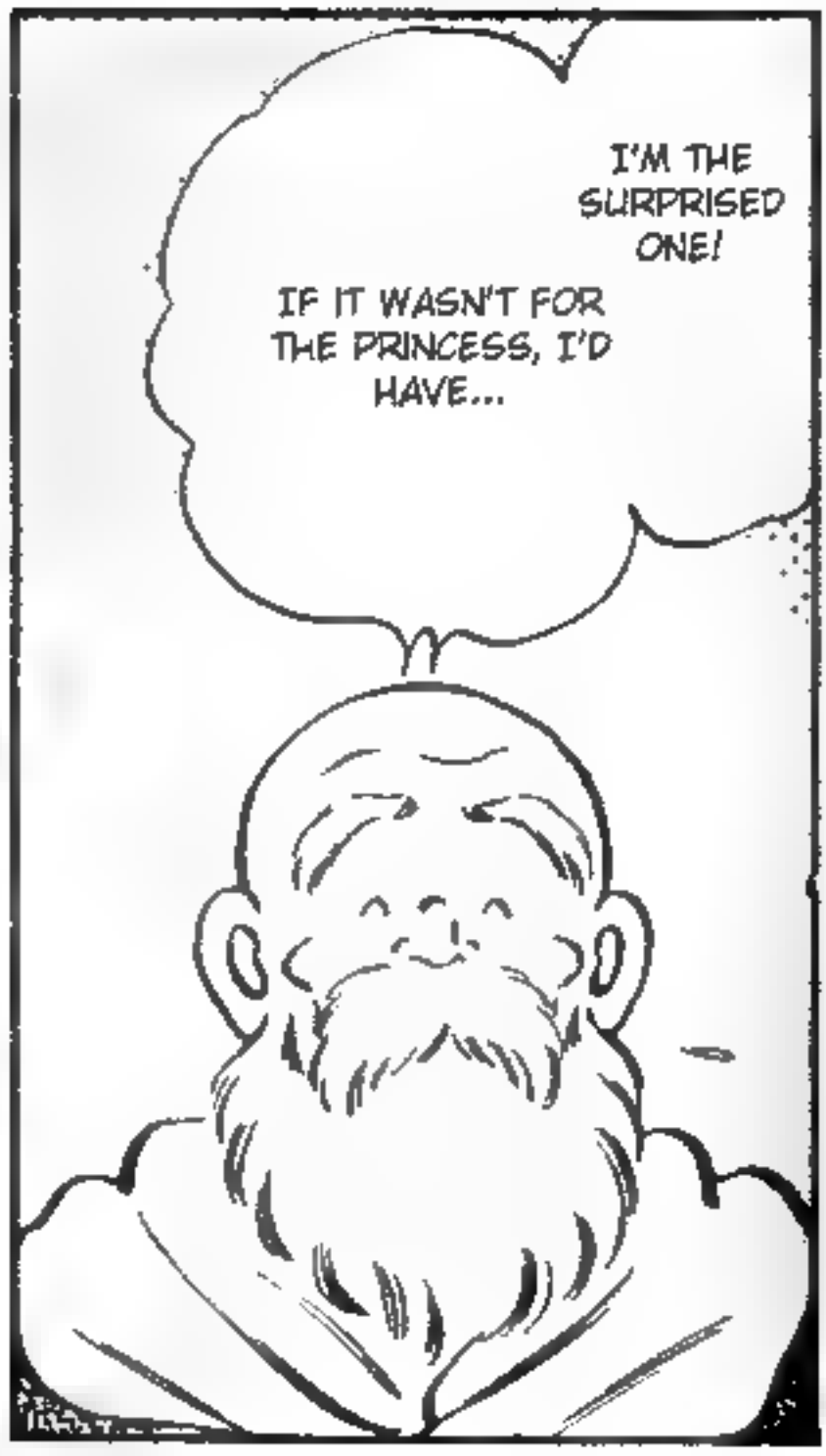
BUT...
AH!
AH!
HANZO!
I DON'T LIKE THIS PERSON! KILL HER!


UHOH.


HEY! WAIT A SEC...!
HEH!
JUST TRY IT!


WHAT A SURPRISE!
I WASN'T EXPECTING TO MEET YOU IN THE CITY, SIR!

HAVE WHAT?


I'M THE SURPRISED ONE!
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE PRINCESS, I'D HAVE...

...JUST THAT I'D BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE TEMPLE.
UH ...
NOTHING ...

OH, YOU MUST BE A REALLY IMPORTANT MONK TO BE ALLOWED IN THE CASTLE!

YEAH!

WELL, WE'RE WITH THE PRINCESS, SO THERE.

THE REASON THIS TEMPLE'S SO BROKEN DOWN IS BECAUSE HE SPENT ALL THE COLLECTION MONEY ON WINE.

OH, I SEE!

エッヘン

I'VE HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE SHOGUNATE FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

HAHAHA!

HE'S FAMOUS FOR TWO THINGS, DRINKING AND BRAGGING.

REMEMBER TO TAKE HIS BLUSTER WITH A GRAIN OF SALT.

THE MAN WHO IS NOW THE EIGHTH SHOGUN HIMSELF OFTEN CAME TO THIS TEMPLE WHEN HE WAS YOUNG!

I AIN'T BRAGGING NOW!

MAYBE... ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO?

UH ...

Y-YEAH!

THE SHOGUN?

RIGHT HERE?

HAHA!

OOH, GOOD COVER, PICKING A TIME BEFORE I WAS BORN; GUESS I CAN'T BLOW YOUR STORY NOW!

FORGET IT! LET'S VISIT YOUR MOTHER!

WHAT!

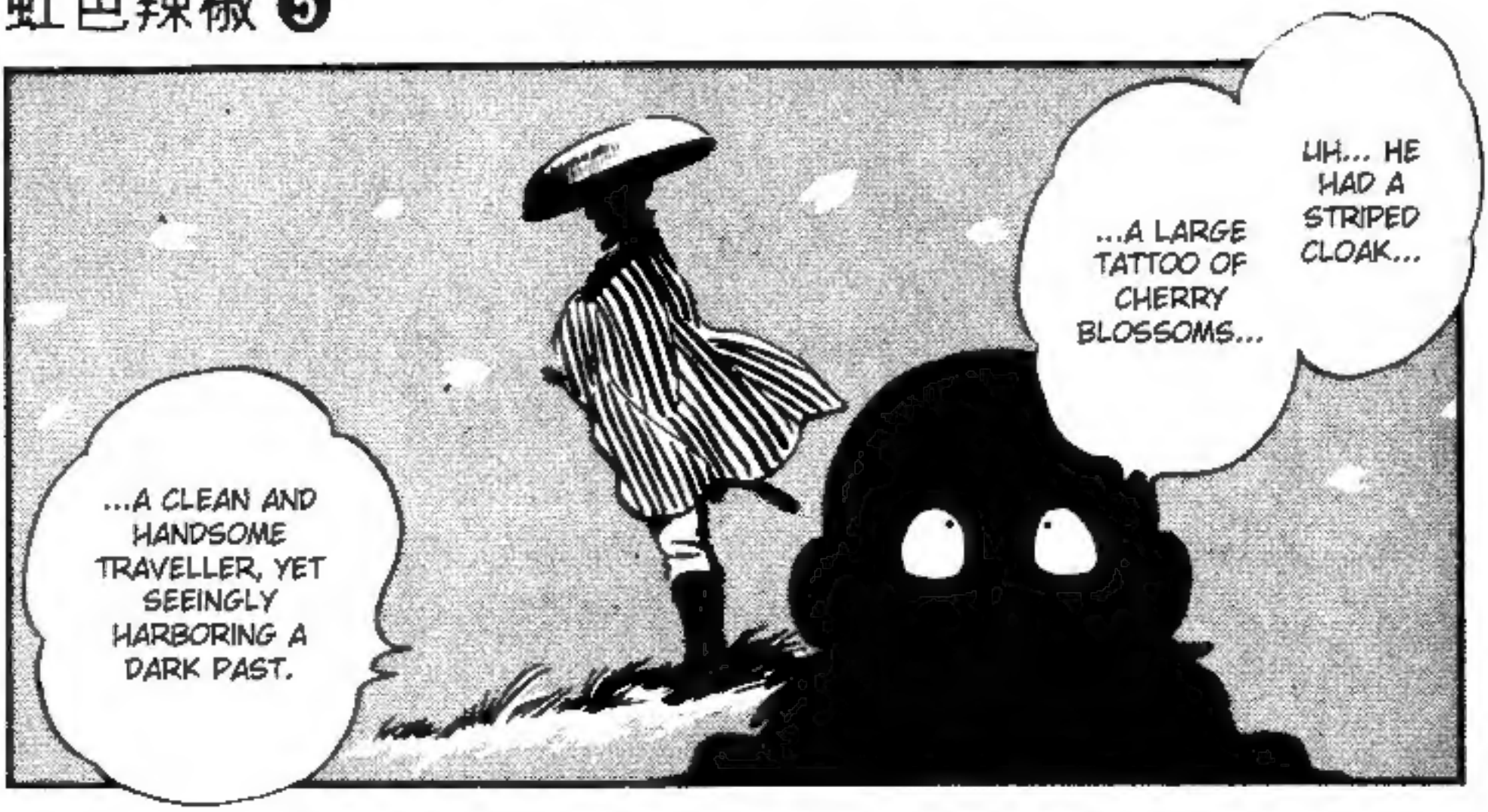
I JUST REMEMBERED. YOU SAID YOU MET MY FATHER BEFORE.

*GRAVE OF KESHI'S MOTHER

WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?

YEAH.

UH.


...A CLEAN AND HANDSOME TRAVELLER, YET SEEINGLY HARBORING A DARK PAST.
UH... HE HAD A STRIPED CLOAK...
...A LARGE TATTOO OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS...
YEAH, SHOULDN'T HE BE A TRAVELLING PERFORMER?
GEE ...
HE SOUNDS LIKE A GANGSTER.
EITHER HE HAD SOME OBSESSION WITH DISGUISES, OR MAYBE...
HOW COULD ALL OF THESE BE THE SAME PERSON!?
I HEARD THAT HE WAS A JOLLY AND ROTUND PRIEST.
THIS IS INSANE!

IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH!

HO! HO!

ARUMPH-HMPH!

HM...

...HE WAS ONLY ACTING LECHEROUS. HE COULD BE SOME IMPORTANT PERSON HIDING HIS TRUE IDENTITY FOR SOME REASON.

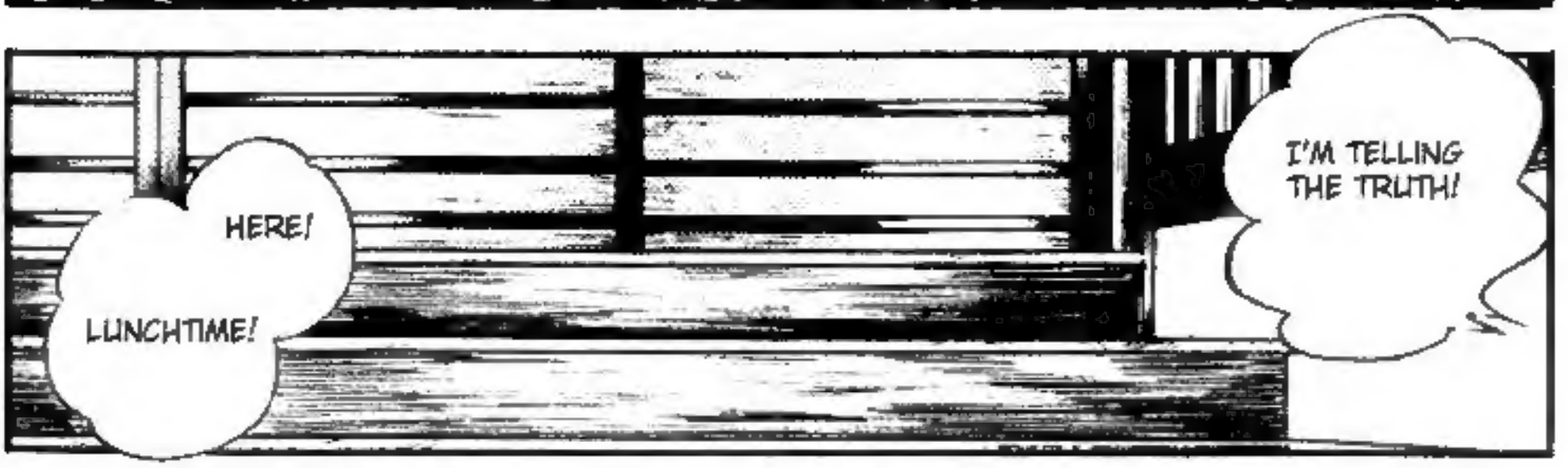
WAIT!

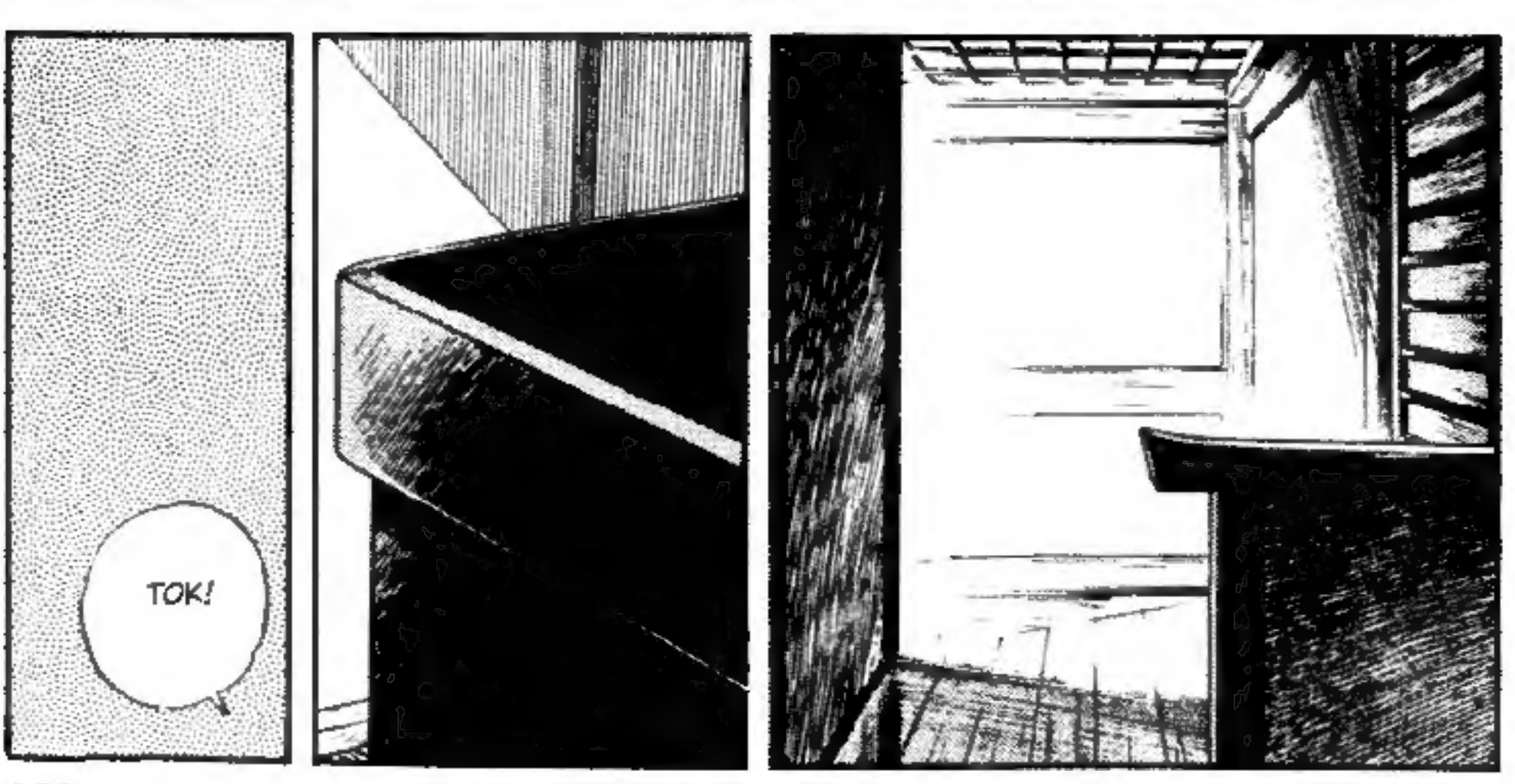
SHE'S DIFFERENT!

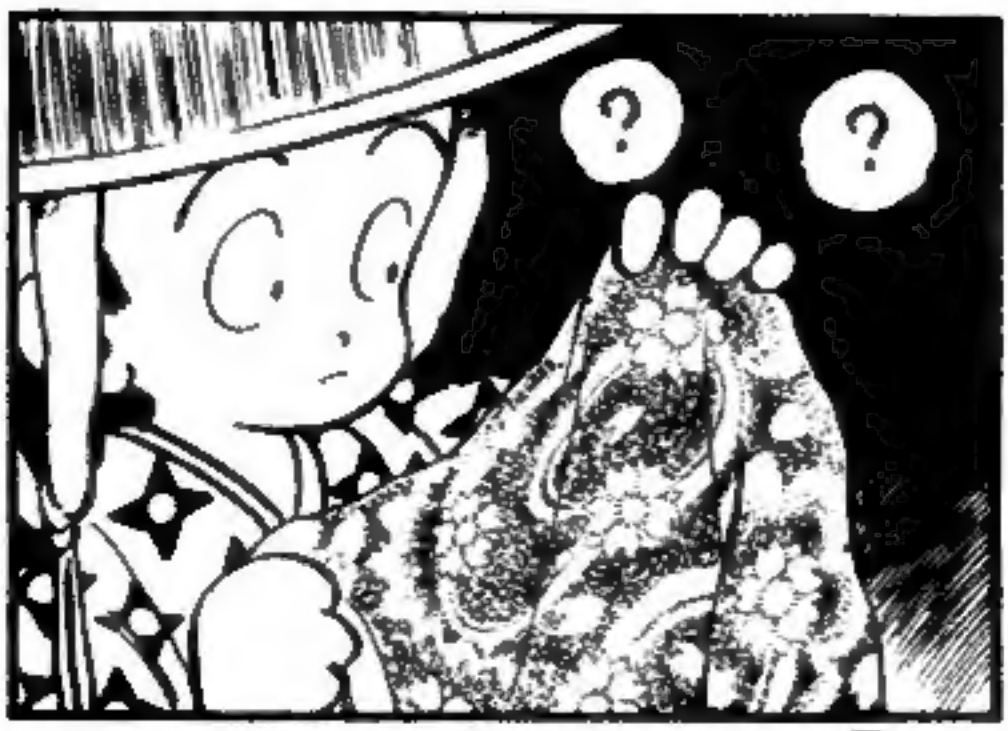
HANZO! HANZO!

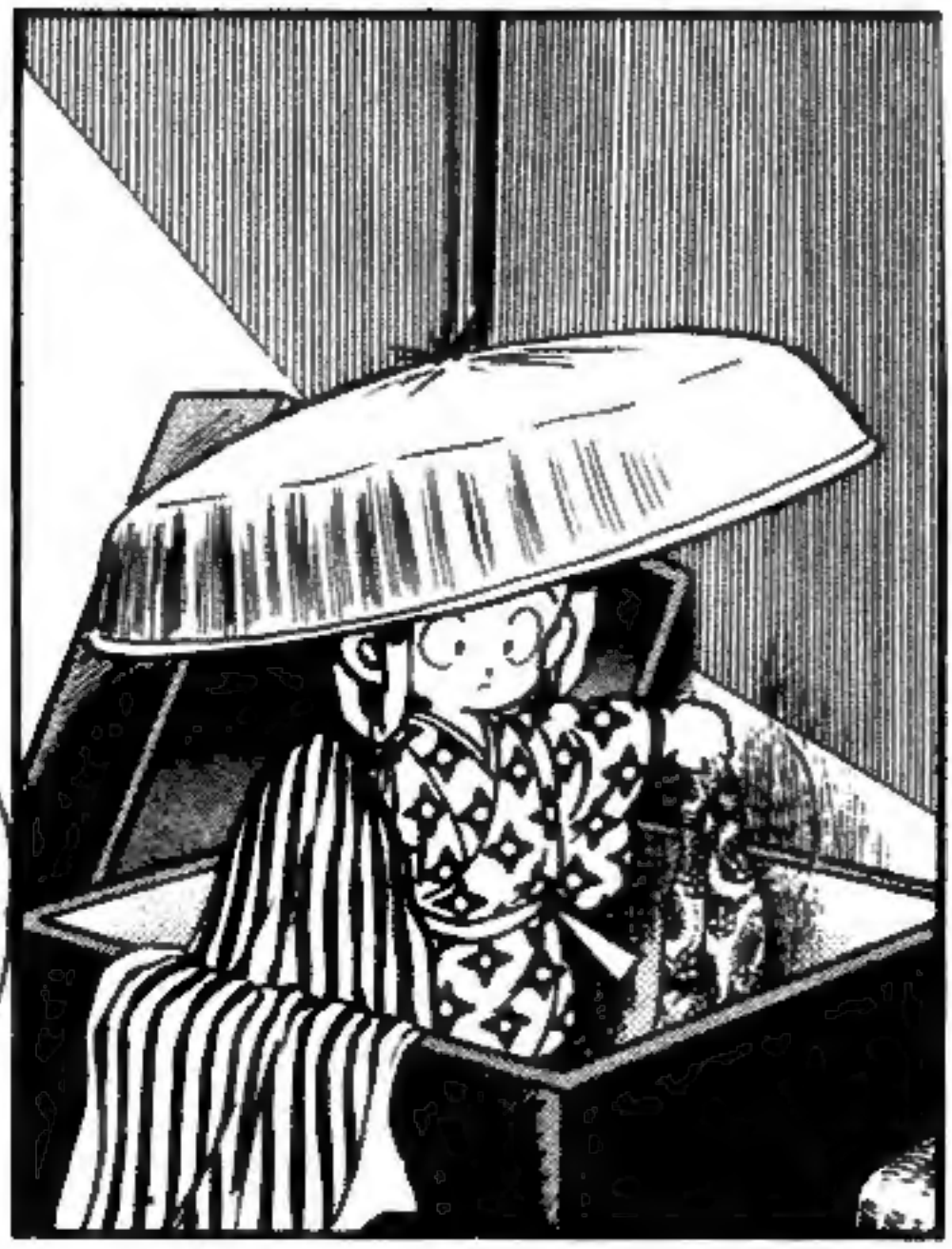
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!?

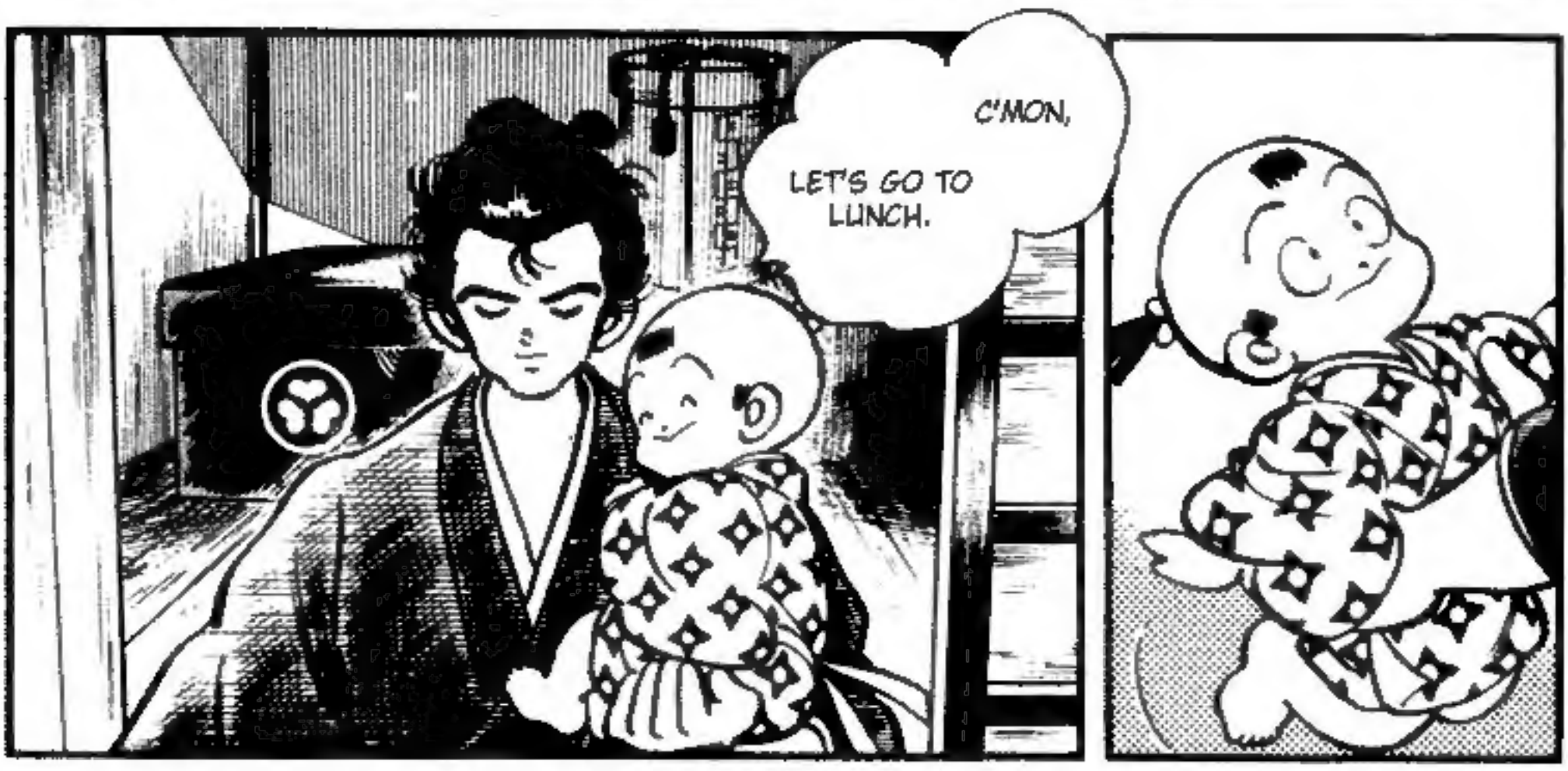
KESHI -- LOOK.
THAT'S THE PLACE WHERE THE CURRENT SHOGUN STAYED.
OH. IZZAT SO?

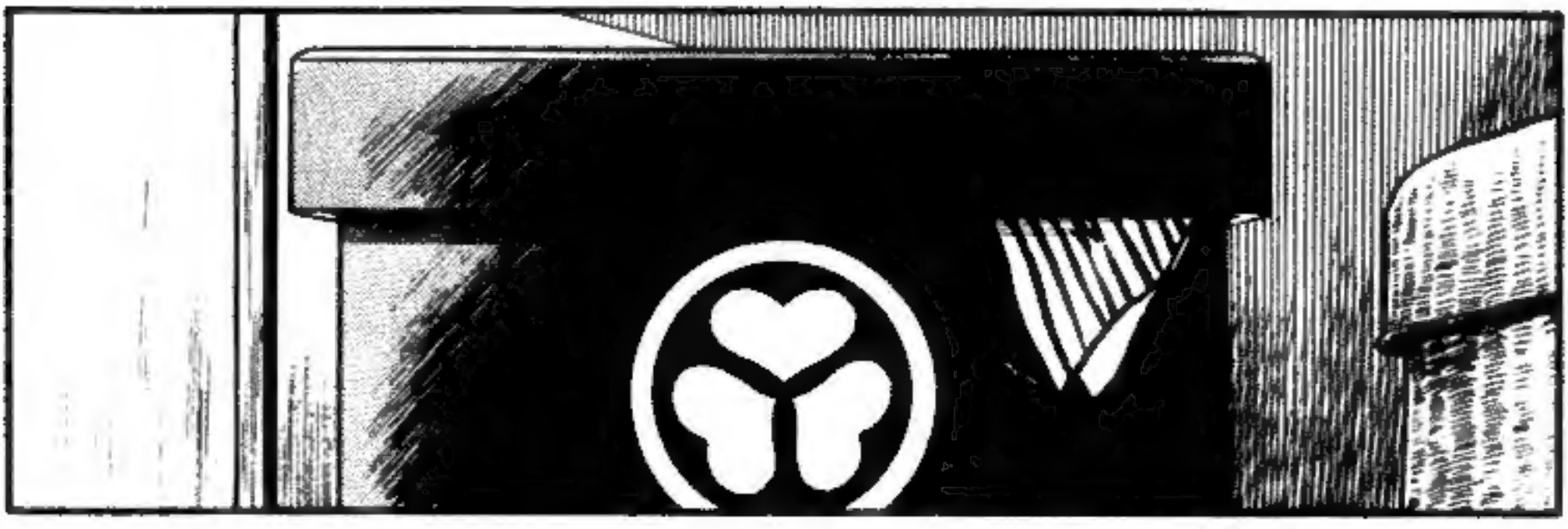

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
HERE!
LUNCHTIME!


TOK!









——虹色辣椒❺・完——